THE Fisherman

—THE LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION—

July 7th—13th, 1983
Volume 18, Number 27

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THE Fisherman

—THE LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION—

Volume 18, Number 27 July 7th, 1983

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ABOUT THE COVER:

Tuna like these are a big reason why "canyon fever" has reached such epidemic proportions. Having the proper tackle and equipment aboard on these long offshore treks can mean the difference between success and failure. See part two of Canyon Fishing on page 28.

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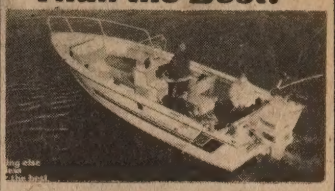

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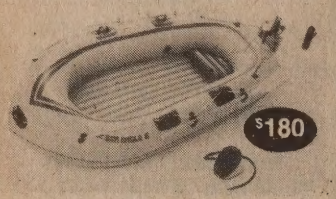

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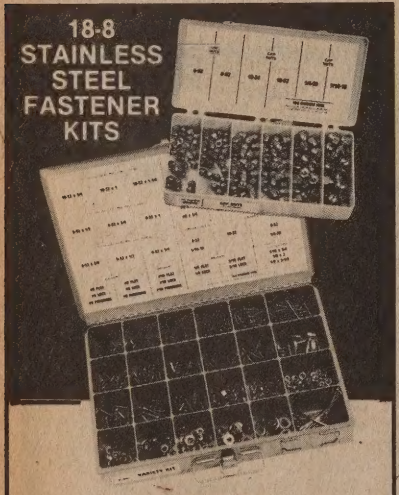

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EDITORIAL

STRIPED BASS BILL PASSES STATE LEGISLATURE: TIME TO WRITE THE GOVERNOR!

The year is 1990. The weakfish have cycled down so that there aren't enough to warrant fishing for them. Bluefish are abundant one year, but not the next. We were spoiled by bluefish in the 1970s and 1980s, and thus we forgot that the comings and goings of blues are much like the wind, and we were wrong to ever count on them. They are, after all, an ocean species and their comings are as unexplainable as their goings. There are no striped bass either. Pressure on porgy, flounder, fluke and the rest has increased so much that fishing for these is only a shadow of what it was. Surf fishing as a technique is dead; many boat liveries have closed for lack of business, as have party and charter boats. A $150 million economy for the State of New York has gone down the tubes. Sitting around at a meeting of one of the few fishing clubs to survive to 1990, one member expresses lack of understanding about why striped bass, once the most dependable of inshore species, has disappeared. Another club member asks, "Did you write to Governor Cuomo in 1983 urging him to sign the striped bass management plan legislation?" Of course that fisherman had not written and thus the bill was never made the law of the land and the 1990 absence of striped bass is very easy to understand.

Fortunately, this is 1983 and not 1990. We still have a chance to prevent the 1990 scenario. We still have a chance to protect the resource and recreational fishing for striped bass.

Where do we stand now? The State/Federal Striped Bass Management Project has made recommendations to the states for preservation and management of striped bass along the East Coast. These recommendations are reasonable and conservative. They do not suggest management of the species via drastic means in recognition of the needs of people and their industries. Already, seven states are in full compliance. These are: Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Virginia, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, and Maryland. New Jersey and Rhode Island are on the brink of compliance. If New York makes this management plan law there will be considerable pressure on these remaining states to comply this year. Obviously, the reverse is also true and the failure of New York to comply will be a weapon for opponents of striped bass management to prevent or delay compliance in these states.

Some have argued that the bass will recover by themselves and that no management is necessary. Such an opinion goes contrary to scientific knowledge which indicates clearly that heavily harvested species must be managed carefully independent of their natural cycles. In any event, striped bass are not in the process of self-recovery. The 1982 East Coast landings for striped bass were the lowest since 1935, and the spawning indexes have been consistently poor. Haven't you noticed how poor the bass fishing has been in recent years. Do you really need the landings figures to appreciate that striped bass are in trouble? Of course you don't! One remembers the acres of school bass "marching" down Long Island Sound in the fall of 1972 and 1973. One remembers the tremendous fishing for large bass with live bunker in the Sound during the late 1960s when almost anyone could take a cow. How about the eel fishing along the south shore during the fall season in the mid and late 1960s? We remember.

Unfortunately, there has been a lot of misleading and inaccurate information appearing in the local media regarding this legislation. Some would have us believe that striped bass stocks are healthy, that if this legislation becomes law no one will catch a bass again, and that 4,000 people will be out of work. These are some of the outrageous statements that have been made by those with a vested interest in an unmanaged striped bass fishery. First, all the experts agree that striped bass stocks are in big trouble. The relative vitality of the Hudson stock doesn't help much because its contribution to the coastal fishery is only about seven percent. This legislation does require striped bass to be 24 inches in order for a fisherman to keep them, and it does prohibit keeping striped bass during the winter closed season. However, these provisions will work the same way the 16 inch limit always has. These rules will not stop you from fishing for stripers, only from keeping them under 24 inches and during the brief closed season. The design of these provisions is to allow for more spawning and for less interference with coastal migrations of young fish. The claim has been made that this legislation will put 4,000 people out of work.

(Continued on page 51.)

Join With Us At THE Fisherman And

Send-A-Kid Fishing

This Summer!

It's a sad fact that many youngsters never get the opportunity to experience the joys that fishing can provide. We, here at **The Fisherman**, feel that the need to introduce youngsters to this healthy and wholesome sport has never been greater.

If you agree, and would like to join with us in making the **Send-A-Kid Fishing** program a success, won't you please send along a small donation to help us fund fishing trips for these boys and girls. A donation of $8.00 will cover the cost of a day's fishing for one youngster but any contribution at all will be greatly appreciated. How about everyone (individuals, fishing clubs, fishing related businesses and organizations, etc.) joining in and showing these kids what fishing, and fishermen, are all about. A listing of the names of all those who contribute to the program will appear in **The Fisherman** at the close of summer.

Yes, I would like to "Send-A-Kid Fishing" this summer.
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ASSEMBLY PASSES HALPIN BILL TO SAVE STRIPED BASS

A measure to preserve the dwindling population of the striped bass passed in the New York State Assembly recently. The bill establishes a comprehensive striped bass management program and imposes a minimum 24 inch size requirement on striped bass harvested in marine waters, Assemblyman Patrick G. Halpin (D-Lindenhurst) said.

"This is a major step in the fight to save and replenish the rapidly declining stock of striped bass," Halpin said. "Commercial landings on the East Coast have dropped by over 80 percent since 1973 because the females of the species are being caught before they are mature enough to spawn. The current size limitation in our state is 16 inches, but only 5 percent of female striped bass spawn at this size. If allowed to reach 24 inches, nearly all females will have spawned at least once."

Halpin said that it is particularly important that the 24 inch size limit be imposed so that New York State will conform with the Interstate Striped Bass Management Plan that was adopted by all the coastal states from Maine to North Carolina in the Fall of 1981. "New York supported the plan back then, but the Legislature has been slow to implement it. Most of the other coastal states have enacted the 24 inch size requirement and they have scorned us for our delay. It is imperative that we act now so that the stocks, which spawn in the Chesapeake Bay, and migrate to our waters, are replenished."

The Halpin bill has been opposed by some small segments of the commercial fishing industry, which feel that the new size requirement will curtail their harvest of striped bass, but Assemblyman Halpin contends that the bill will improve the stock of striped bass in the long run. "Since the fish have the chance to spawn, there will be larger numbers of striped bass to be caught within a few years," he said. In New York State the commercial harvest declined by 42 percent from 1981 to 1982, and it is obvious that the industry is being hurt due to overharvesting. The size restriction will actually prove to be a benefit for commercial fishermen, as well as recreational anglers.

NOTE: A week following passage of Mr. Halpin's bill in the Assembly, the Striped Bass Bill was approved by the Senate.

BOATING/FISHING ENHANCEMENT GAINS SUPPORT FROM MOST CAMPS

Near universal approval reigned June 2 as members of the boating and fishing industries testified before the House Ways and Means Committee in support of H.R. 2163, commonly referred to as the Boating/Fishing Enhancement Bill. The legislation divides motorboat fuel tax revenues for boating safety and access, fish restoration and the Coast Guard. Summing up the position of many of those testifying, National Marine Manufacturers Association Government Relations director Ron Stone said, "This legislation would optimize the use of marine fuel tax revenue, providing something for everybody in government responsible for recreational boating and sport fishing enhancement." Other groups supporting the effort included the National Boating Federation, American Fisheries Society and Boats/U.S.

Citing a problem area in the collection and payment of excise taxes on fishing tackle, Tom Schedler of the American Fishing Tackle Manufacturers Association said the only provision his group could not support was the one calling for an expansion of the ten percent excise tax to include all so-called fishing tackle products, and the imposition of a three percent tax on electric trolling motors and certain fish locators.

But Ways and Means Committee members also heard Zebco Vice President Gene Howard say that Mercury Marine, another Brunswick company, joins Zebco in support of H.R. 2163 including the expansion of excise tax to Mercury trolling motors. "With the rapid increase in population growth over the past 25 years, it is even more important today that the restoration programs funded from the sale of our own products and taxed on our own initiative be maintained and increased. The majority of the reel and rod tackle companies in the U.S. share this opinion," Howard asserted.

Representatives from the Reagan Administration were also heard. The only major criticism of the bill came from a Fish and Wildlife official who said the proposed threefold increase in funds to the states might be more than they could accommodate, a view not shared by the states.

Overall, the tone of the hearing was

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positive, promising, and indicates strong Congressional support as the testimony of Representative Edwin Forsythe (R-NJ), ranking minority member of the Subcommittee on Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation indicated. Said Forsythe, "I believe that the distribution and increase in taxation contained in H.R. 2163 is equitable, has broad support among the affected interest groups and will be used to finance worthwhile and valuable programs."

WARBURTON PRODUCTIONS OFFERS FISHING SCHOOLS FOR THE HOME VCR VIDEO CASSETTE MARKET

Many of you have already seen Warburton Productions' "How to Catch Walleye" and "How to Catch Bass" productions which have been broadcast nationally over hundreds of cable and commercial television stations and featured as seminars at sport shows. Now, as of July 1st, sportsmen across the country will be able to reap the benefits of enjoying these extensive outdoor schools in the privacy of their own homes, offices or at club meetings. Jay S. Warburton, President of Warburton Productions, has just announced the release of his first two major productions entitled, "How to Catch Walleye" and "How to Catch Bass." These two major productions are available for direct mail purchase on either VHS or Beta II format video tape for the price of $39.95 plus $2 postage/handling and can be ordered from Warburton Productions, 1414 Evans, Sterling, Colorado 80751. Cover jackets will be autographed by Jay S. Warburton if the order is sent to his attention.

"How to Catch Walleye" features professional fisherman Babe Winkelman, who explains all of his secrets for catching this exciting sport fish.

"How to Catch Bass" stars the pro bass angler, Roger Moore, who explains all of the aspects of this sport in detail.

Both productions feature fantastic color and are the most professionally produced outdoor films available. Beautiful underwater shots of each species plus all of the "how, where, and when..." techniques for teaching the viewer how to catch fish. A must for every sportsman's library.

OAKDALE SPORTSMEN CLUB SHARK TOURNEY A SUCCESS

The Oakdale Sportsmens Club, held its annual Club Shark Tournament on June 18th. Even though the weather was not top-notch, the members fishing had an enjoyable day. The first place fish was a 212 lb. mako caught by Al Andrus on the Tail Roper captained by Charles Johnson. On the Oden, captained by Howie Svendson, the second and third place sharks were caught by Howie Stanfeld. These sharks were blues weighing 183 and 159 pounds each.

PENN REEL PARTS

When Penn first started manufacturing fishing reels over 50 years ago, one of its credoes was that reel parts would be available to everyone.

Penn continues to follow that policy to this day, selling parts to distributors and dealers. The universal availability of parts is one of Penn's greatest selling points.

Many parts in a Penn reel are still the same as they were decades ago. Why change something if it's good? A casual glance at the 38B parts manual, used for ordering parts on conventional reels, reveals large numbers of duplicate parts listings. It all translates into a simpler, less cluttered parts inventory for the dealer, and less headaches for everyone.

For instance, in the 52 reel models listed in the 38B manual, over 30 use part #40-60, a left end bearing cap. When our engineers set about making a new reel, they try to incorporate as many existing parts as possible in the prototype. Not only does that procedure help to keep our inventory and your inventory down, but it also helps

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While it is true that we do experience a seasonal rush on parts orders, which sometimes taxes our Parts Department and causes parts shortages, Penn is continually striving to ensure a quick, speedy processing of parts orders. To Penn, parts orders are like out-of-state relatives: we like to see them come, and we like to see them go.

Unlike other fishing tackle manufacturers, Penn won't leave you with bulging drawers of outdated parts. Reliable sources have indicated to us that at least one major competitor of Penn does not stock parts for reels older than five years. So much for their product support!

Penn does not change for the sake of change, but only when it results in product performance improvement. In the vast conglomeration of a dealer's parts inventory, Penn stands as a refreshing oasis of parts continuity and duplication. Chances are, many of the Penn parts you bought 10, 20, even 30 years ago could still be used in many Penn reels rolling down the assembly line right now.

—ATTENTION—

Fishing Clubs, C.G. Auxiliaries and other fishing related organizations having important information to share with our readers can send it to: The Fisherman, Post Office Box 1994, Sag Harbor, N.Y. 11963.

NEW Products

REVISED COLREGS PUBLICATION ISSUED BY HOUSTON MARINE

Major changes in the U.S. Coast Guard's International Collission Prevention Regulations have been issued recently and Houston Marine Consultants, Inc. of New Orleans has published a reference guide to assist boat operators who navigate international waters in complying with the new rules.

The new regulations, which became effective June 1, cover navigation light requirements, rules of traffic separation, fog signals and the technical specifications for lights and sound devices on all boats—from private fishing vessels to 100,000 ton tankers—which operate on the high seas or water connected to them that are navigable by seagoing vessels.

Some of the 55 changes in the COLREGS include: a new provision that exempts certain vessels from compliance with traffic separation schemes; a revision in the 'fog signal' rules that clarifies the sound signaling requirements for fishing or other vessels restricted in maneuverability; and a relaxation for small vessels in the standards for special lights indicating 'not under command', 'aground' and 'restricted maneuverability'.

All of these changes are included in Houston Marine's revised "COLREGS Study Guide and Reference Book" which contains an easily understandable explanation of the new regulations as well as photographs illustrating the requirements imposed by the rules. Single copies of this publication are available for $9.50, plus $1.00 for shipping, from Houston Marine Consultants, Inc., 1600 20th St., Kenner, LA 70062 (469-9013) (1-800-353-8803).

MERCRUISER INTRODUCES NEW V-6 STERN DRIVE

A new MerCruiser V-6 stern drive power package, the 185 hp MerCruiser 185, has been announced by David Jones, MerCruiser product director.

The new unit will be offered with power steering as standard equipment and will be coupled to a 1.84:1 gear ratio stern drive. The V-6 has a four-barrel carburetor and an engine displacement of 229 cu. in. Jones said that new valves in the MerCruiser 185 are constructed of a special alloy which will virtually double valve life compared to competitive engines.

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the new V-6 will provide are:

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•Direct-Acting steering, a system recently introduced on MerCruiser V8s and the MerCruiser 488, provides reliable, positive steering control.

•An excellent power-to-weight ratio offers sprightly acceleration and strong top-end performance. The complete unit weighs only 772 pounds.

Jones said that one of the major advantages that the V-6 engine has is its compact dimensions. It measures less than 32 inches from the transom to the front of the engine; width is 28.5 inches. This results in a generous amount of deck space in the aft end of the boat.

The MerCruiser's Power Trim unit is built around a tough, automotive-type U-joint, which allows the drive unit to be firmly mounted in place. The trim and tilt systems are in one integrated unit. The entire stern drive system is completely grounded to prevent galvanic corrosion.

Jones said that the new V-6 is an addition to the line and will not replace either of the four-cylinder models of comparable horsepower, the MerCruiser 470 and 488. "We are convinced that the 470 and 488, which are very fuel efficient, will retail their positions in the marketplace, but there are also customers who want the V-6," Jones explained. "Consequently, our objective is to give customers a choice."

NEW TRAILER DOLLY MOVES BOATS WITH EASE

Designed to eliminate physical strain and inconvenience, the Li'l Tug Trailer Dolly from America-Wide Products maneuvers boats, campers, utility trailers, etc., quickly, safely, efficiently.

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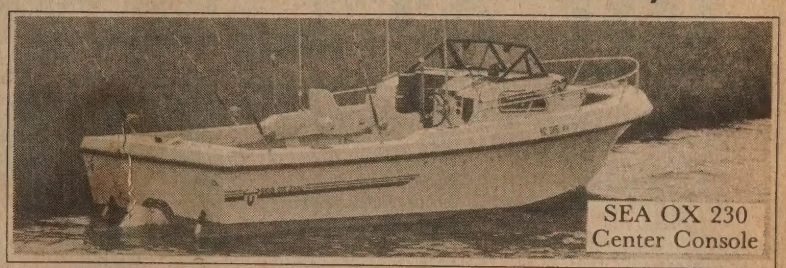

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fortable vinyl handle grips, self lubricating "Oilite" wheel bearings, optional 13 x 5.00-6 tubeless tires and a 90 day warranty.

For further information on the versatile new Li'l Tug Trailer Dolly, which retails for $99.95, contact America-Wide Products, P.O. Box 1675, Appleton, Wisconsin 54913.

NEW SINGLE FOOT GUIDES FROM MILDRUM

Mildrum's Mildarbide fishing rod guides have earned a reputation for corrosion resistance in the severe environment of today's polluted waters. Now Mildrum brings the advantages of GE's Carboloy® guide rings to a new design guide that responds to the needs of lighter weight tackle.

Mildrum Single Foot guides continue the use of Carboloy 616 rings in a new guide that provides unprecedented strength in a guide that facilitates the flexing of popular thin composite rods.

Frames are cast of Herculoy® , a silicon bronze alloy with unique properties. Even the more costly tin-bronze metals cannot meet the special advantages provided by Mildrum's alloy. This alloy is used in high demand applications where parts must demonstrate high tensile strength, yield strength, elongation and high temperature strength. Resistance to corrosion is virtually equal to pure copper. It has low thermal and electrical conductivity. It's non-magnetic and non-sparking. The fine grain and dense structure of this alloy provides strength without extra weight.

The Single Foot has a concave shape to conform to the thin composite rod blanks being used today. The Carboloy ring features a full inside radius for reduced friction on the line. That means longer line life and longer casts.

Mildrum's Single Foot guides are designed for saltwater trolling rods where the need for roller mountings is not indicated. They are available in black finish or gold plate in sizes 9, 10, 12, 14 and 16.

Mildrum Single Foot guides will be available to local sporting goods and fishing tackle stores after July, 1983.

FAULKNER FIGHTING BELTS FOR OFFSHORE ANGLERS

FAULKNER SEA PRODUCTS introduces a new series of stand-up fighting belts and shoulder harnesses. They incorporate several unique features, heretofore unavailable on other styles. The Faulkner fighting belts offer hip-hugger design that develops uniform tension throughout the top of the belt rather than in the lower portion. The lower belt has been beefed up and remains completely rigid while fighting the toughest of fish. The upper section is flexible and its wide surface displaces pressure evenly throughout the hip area. Foam backing that overlaps the apron by a full half inch adds additional comfort.

The gimbal features a drop design that brings the reel closer to the angler. This allows the fisherman to fight and pressure the fish in a natural, relaxed arm position rather than having to reach those extra inches to control the rod. A good deal more pressure can be administered via this new design with less fatigue and discomfort.

All Faulkner belts feature a Fastex buckle that can be tightened and released via one-hand operation. Manufactured of unbreakable plastic polymers, all belts are exceedingly light in weight and feature a full two year warranty. To compliment the belts, Faulkner has designed a new featherweight stand-up harness that features a comfortable stretch nylon that does not irritate shoulders, even under constant pressure. This harness incorporated one-step, adjustable nylon straps and stainless steel hardware for durability. A cross weave back-strap provides complete comfort, while the wide nylon mesh maintains a flow of cool air even on the hottest of days.

Several styles and sizes are available on both products. Faulkner also manufactures big game reel covers, surf, utility, and boat bags, fighting chair and electronic equip. covers. Custom embroidered/monogrammed services are also available on these

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For more information on this company's quality line of products, write: Faulkner Sea Products c/0 Smith & Son, Inc., 1239 Ridge Ave., Philadelphia, Penna. 19123, or 800-523-0889 (outside Pa.).

ZEBCO'S "KIDS COMBO" GREAT FOR BEGINNING ANGLERS

When kids begin fishing, they need equipment designed for them. Equipment that will fit smaller hands, a combination they feel comfortable with.

That's why Zebco developed a "Kids Combo," ideal for anglers 10 years old and younger. The combination comes "ready-to-fish," with helpful instructions and tips on the back of each package.

The reel features a star drag and is spooled with 8# test line. The rod, measuring 34 inches long, is just the length needed for children learning how to cast.

This balanced combination is just the set your little fishing partner needs for summer fishing.

FINGER PORTS INCREASE MARINER 200 PERFORMANCE AND POWER

Mariner engineers have designed new combustion chamber porting for their "top-of-the-line" 200 horsepower model.

These "finger ports" improve performance and power, according to Al Castrodale, Mariner Product Director. Two "finger ports" (intake boost ports) were added to each piston and cylinder. These ports assist in directing the fresh charge of air and fuel into the cylinder, resulting in improved scavenging and a six to seven percent increase in power output. Since the total intake area of the cylinder is about the same as it was without the finger ports, performance was dramatically improved without increasing fuel consumption.

To further increase fuel efficiency and overall durability, Mariner has also improved the ports and gas flow through the cylinders. This has been combined with highly durable pistons. The V-6 models feature cam shaped, high silicon alloy pistons for greatly increased scuff resistance which extends piston life dramatically. While this harder metal is more costly to machine, it provides a longer lasting, more reliable engine.

The V-6 pistons are equipped with a "two-keystone" ring design which allows excellent heat transfer. This style of tapered ring will operate for long periods without any ring sticking problems. Keystone rings were pioneered in long running diesel engines, and in outboards they help keep carbon cleared from piston grooves, increasing dependability.

A combination "idle stabilizer" and "spark advance module" has been added to the Mariner V-200. This unit gives better "hot starting," greater shift reliability and increased efficiency and performance at higher

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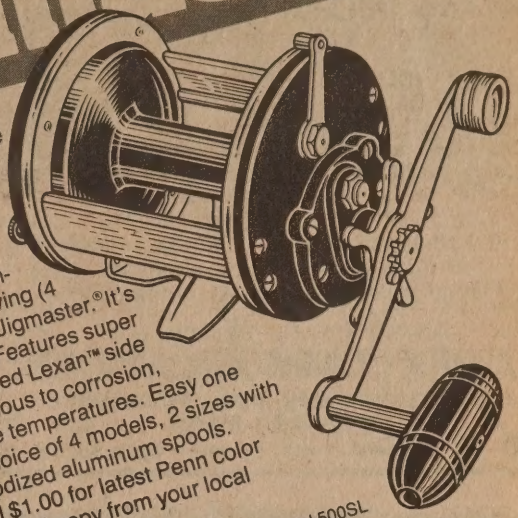

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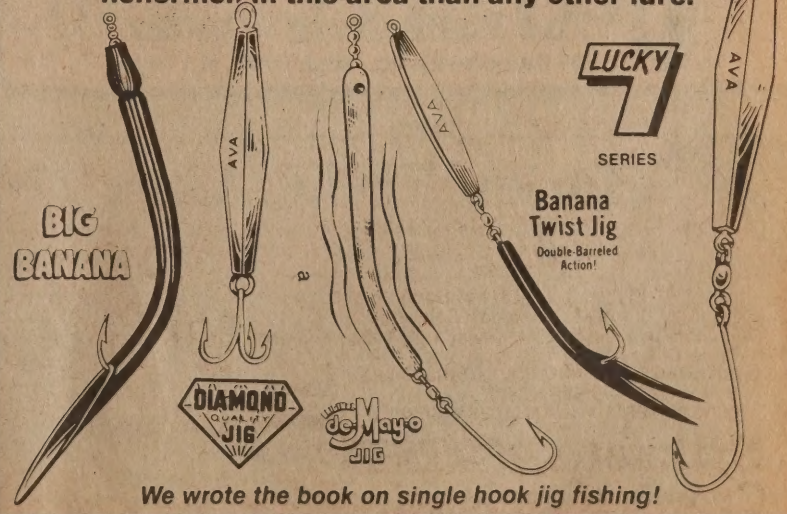

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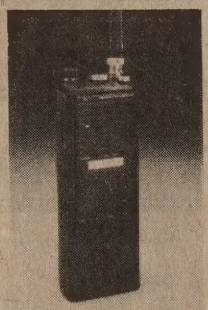

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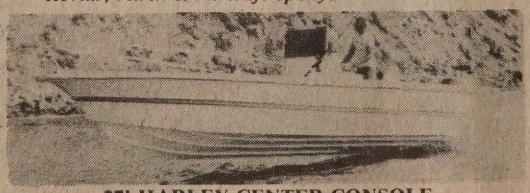

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Engineering refinements and improvements coupled with new technology and modern design changes are continually being added to Mariner outboards. Mariner does not have a model year, and improvements are added to the line as they are developed.

Mariner Outboards, based in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, offers a full line of 48 outboard models in 18 power options, ranging from two to 200 horsepower, plus six electric models.

FLAMBEAU INTRODUCES TWO NEW TROLLING BAIT BUCKETS

Flambeau's new Trolling Bait Buckets are available in six and nine quart sizes.

The single piece copolymer body is specially balanced to right itself no matter how it hits the water. Its unique design allows it to plane smoothly when trolling—no skipping or bouncing. To make it even more convenient for anglers, the door operates with one simple motion. There are no buttons or latches to push.

Molded in marine safety yellow, these Adventurer Trolling Bait Buckets are practical and functional.

For more information contact Flambeau Products Corporation, Box 97, Middlefield, OH 44062.

PENN'S 200L SURFMASTER® REEL SHOWS IT'S THE HEAVY DUTY LIGHTWEIGHT

By combining high-quality alloys with Penn's traditionally rugged construction, the Penn 200L Surfmaster Reel can weigh in at just 19 ounces, yet be able to hold 250 yrds. of 30 lb. test mono. William M. Kenney recently used his Surfmaster to set a new IGFA saltwater record for permit with his 51 lb. 8 oz. catch at Lake Worth, Florida.

The popularly priced 200L features a precision die-cast black anodized spool, distortion-free plastic side plates with chrome-plated brass rings, and Penn's famous "Star Drag" system that allows anglers to control drag tension. In addition, all Surfmaster reels feature one-screw takedown and one-shot lubrication for fast, easy routine maintenance.

For further information, contact: Penn Fishing Tackle Mfg. Co., 3028 West Hunting Park Avenue, Dept. P, Philadelphia, PA 19132. Or call (215) 229-9415.

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Weekly prize winners will receive a *trip for two* aboard any of the open boats participating in the contest plus an added bonus of *$25.00* to cover your day's expenses.

And, that's not all! At season's end, each of our weekly winners becomes eligible for our *Grand Prize Drawing.* One lucky angler will be the recipient of a *$250.00 Shopping Spree* at any tackle shop regularly advertising in The Fisherman. He or she will also get to choose one of three specially selected fishing outfits designed to meet the needs of the most demanding angler.

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For a free Long Island Fisherman Bumper Sticker send a send-addressed, stamped business size envelope to: The Fisherman Bumper Sticker Contest, Post Office Box 1994, Sag Harbor, New York 11963.

SUNTAN FLOUNDER

—Hot Time With Winter Flatties—

by Gregg Maynard

Moriches Bay is rapidly gaining a reputation as a year-round producer of "winter" flounder.

It was a hot, sultry, early morning in mid-July. I had just crossed the last beach cut to the back of the Smith's Point side of Moriches Inlet and I figured I'd make a few more casts and then head home. The tide had just begun to ebb here where the water drops to almost 20 feet right off of the sod bank. As I walked toward the edge of the bank, I noticed one of those rental boats anchored up in the small cove about 50 yards west of me and wondered what they were up to. I soon found out, for upon closer observation I noticed one of those wire fish baskets hanging over the starboard side about half full of—FLOUNDER!

This older gent and his companion sat patiently doing the flounder ritual: two rods apiece, drop over the worm baited hook, bounce-bounce—bingo. Then the dead stick quivered. The guy just picked it up, set the hook and yet another flattie was added to the basket. And here it was July. Now, I always thought these "winter flounder" took up some other residence in the heat of the summer. Guess who was wrong. I watched for another few minutes and observed another five or six good-sized fish wind up in that basket.

If there's one thing that gets this fisherperson's juices flowing it's flounder fishing, especially good productive flounder fishing. I dream about that first trip in the spring and relish the last outing in the late fall. Give me an anchored boat, a chum pot full of mussels and some blood or sand worms and I'm as happy as a kid on their first outing with dad and grandpa. But flounder in the summer? Who ever heard of such a thing?

The past two years of consistent summertime flounder fishing in Moriches Bay has surely laid to rest any beliefs I may have had about the widely held notion that you can't catch flounder in the summer. Moriches Bay can now be considered a virtual 12 month producer of "winter" flatties. Summertime fishing has been as productive and satisfyng as the traditional flounder seasons. There are some minor changes in "spot" location and technique that have proved to be beneficial in increasing one's chances. Here's an outline of the tools and technique that have proven to be effective.

Tackle: light spinning or conventional rods with reels filled with good quality 8 to 15 pound monofilament line. An assortment of one to three ounce bank or flat sinkers. I prefer the flat sinkers as they have less of a tendency to roll. If you have the time and inclination, paint your flounder sinkers yellow. Some believe it will attract these curious fish. Hooks are a toss-up; the long shanked Chestertowns in sizes 8 or 10 are favored by some for their ease of removal, but many folks extoll the virtues of a #6 Sproat hook. One thing that does give Moriches Bay anglers an edge is either a plastic corn kernel on the leader or tiny yellow soft plastic grub at the snell. One of my fly tying friends even goes so far as to tie on some yellow bucktail or maribou feathers on his flounder hooks. These small attractors do make a difference. The hooks should be tied together in tandem to provide two baits on the bottom. The sinker should be on the bottom of the running line via a

perfection loop, with the two tandem tied hooks off a dropper loop right above it. This will assure your baits will rest where they should be—right on the bottom.

Bait: blood or sand worms cut into two inch pieces and threaded on the hooks leaving a small bit dangling off the hook. Red dyed clams or bank mussels for bait will also do the trick. Flounder are sometimes finicky eaters, so I like to bring at least two kinds of bait.

Chum: a must!! During the summer these fish will stick to a small general area. If you do not anchor up right on a bunch of them you will have to entice them closer to your anchored boat. A chum pail loaded with crushed mussels vigorouly bounced on the bottom every few minutes will enhance your catch greatly. You can figure about half a bushel for a full day's fishing.

Technique: from an anchored boat, most Moriches sharpies favor the bounce, bounce, bounce—rest, slow lift method. The bouncing sinker sends out small puffs of mud and debris from the bottom. Flounder, being the curious creatures they are, come to investigate and find the baited hooks. The slow lift has proven to be not only a way to hook these fish, but also forces some reluctant flatties to grab for the bait. Just follow through with the lift to hook them.

Where: summertime flounder favor the deeper mud and mussel bank bottoms of Moriches Bay. They also can be found in the swifter waters of the Elbow area to the east of the inlet and along the sod banks to the west of the inlet. Mud and mussel bottoms can be found NE of buoy 42, between buoys 27 and 29 and just to the east of the series of sand bars in front of the Moriches Coast Guard Station.

Preserving Your Catch: although winter flounder are not considered a "hot bellied" fish, they will, as most any fish flesh, deteriorate rapidly if not iced. Bring along a good sized cooler with blocks or plenty of cubed ice. You may add a bucket or two of bay water (salt) to it to increase the volume of cooling surface area. But above all, keep the fish cool both before and after filleting.

Boats, Ramps: Moriches Bay hosts a large number of boat liveries, charter boats and at least one open boat. Reservations are usually a wise bet for the boat liveries, but there is a party boat (Capt. Leo D) that can usually be boarded just about any day one-half to one hour before sailing time. Moriches Bay charter boats can be found in the advertising section of this publication. Launching facilities for trailered boats can be found at either the Town of Brookhaven ramp (fee or sticker required) on Maple Ave., or at Hi-Way Fishing Station on Atlantic Avenue for a nominal fee. If you want a nice relaxing summer day of fishing, try anchoring up and catching some Moriches Bay winter flounder. Oh, and don't forget that suntan lotion!

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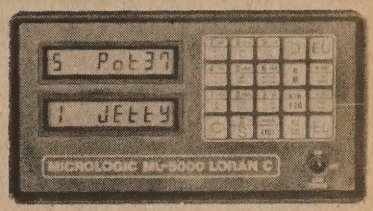

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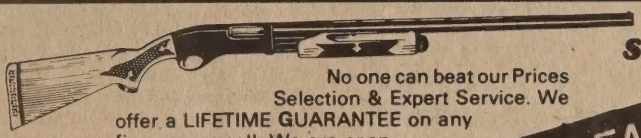

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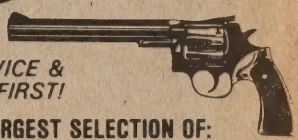

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TEAM UP ON SHARKS

by Pete Barrett

A good crew with experience to leader, gaff and tail rope can increase your catch.

"You should have seen the size of him! Two-hundred fifty pounds at least. I had his nose right to the boat but we couldn't get a gaff in him. He made one last surge under the boat and that was it. The double line came back snapped off, but loaded with blue bottom paint." The angler was relating his own version of the last moments of a shark battle where another mako got free because the boat crew didn't have a clear plan of what to do when they got their trophy to the boat.

Teamwork can make the difference sometimes between a fish story about the one that got away and the one you have hanging on the scales at the dock.

Sharks, makos especially, are different than most other game fish because they are cartilaginous fish with no bones (few bones) and, therefore, they can bend their bodies in unbelievable twists that can rip a gaff out of the hands of a strong man. I once watched a mako get gaffed on Jim Lyons' Wave Dancer and as soon as it felt the sting of the gaff point, it thrashed about so wildly that it bent the sturdy, heavy duty tuna gaff like it was made of aluminum, not steel! And the fish was a little guy of about 100 pounds. It was easy to imagine what a truly large shark could have done to that gaff.

I've had a tiger shark partially straighten a rugged flying gaff head. Later I couldn't pound it straight even when beaten with a sledge hammer.

Most sharks when gaffed will stay in the water. Makos, however, have the ability to leap clear of the water. Now, I've never seen one come in a boat, but I don't want to be the first guy to tell everyone else about it. Tuna can be gaffed in the head with no problem. A mako gaffed in the head still has the tremendous power of his tail to send him in the air headed toward you as you hold the gaff handle. Sharks must be handled differently than other fish.

Makos leap, duskies fight deep, but all sharks of any size will circle the boat as you play them out. On cabin style boats, it is essential to have one or both engines running so the boat can be maneuvered to keep the fish off the stern at all times. With center console type boats you should be prepared to go for a "Sunday stroll," as the shark may take you around the decks if you are fighting the fish standing up with a belt and harness. If the angler is in a fighting chair, maneuver as with a cabin boat.

As the shark tires, he'll keep coming in closer and closer until

With tail rope in place this mako will be tied off a cleat.

Small gaff in jaw causes no bleeding. This brown is being cut free.

finally played out. The moment of truth comes when the fish is laying within leadering reach.

The best approach is to bring the fish along one of the sides of the boat, not so the shark's head is coming into the transom. These head first landings make you reach too far with the gaff and could be dangerous.

The ideal approach is to have the angler lead the shark alongside the boat hull as he walks the fish around. If he's been in a fighting chair, the angler should get out of the chair at the last moment to lead the fish.

The rod man (#1) must lead the shark into the gun'ls so the leader man (#2) can reach the leader and continue to lead the shark to within range of the gaffer (#3). The leader man will usually find that sharks will come to the boat more easily if gentle, but firm pressure is applied rather than hard yanks.

The shark's body should ideally be lying alongside of and parallel to the hull so the gaffer has a clear shot at placing the gaff in the meat just aft of the dorsal fin. A gaff in the aft end of the fish will prevent it from coming aboard. Once the flying gaff is sunk in place, the shark will do the rest, soaking you with water while he twists and thrashes around. Haul in on the flying gaff, and secure a tail rope as quickly as possible, then tie the fish off. Shake hands all around—he's yours.

Some shark anglers prefer to shoot the shark to be on the safe side. A mako with a lethal dose of 30-06 in the brain lies rigid in the water with no wild antics which could cause damage to the boat and gel coat. Once the round has been fired, the gunner exchanges gun for gaff and gets a firm bite on the aft portion of the fish. Lifting the gaff clears the tail from the water to cinch up a tail rope.

The game plan is similar if the shark is to be tagged. Sharks have a tough hide, so a quick, sharp downward jab near the dorsal is the best approach to get the tag firmly embedded.

Sharks don't care much for your interest in science or sportsmanship and they will usually get quite annoyed at getting jabbed, making another run from the boat. The rod man should be prepared for this to keep the rod tip and loose line from getting wrapped around anything. Work the shark back in and then cut the leader.

All of this takes longer to talk about than it takes to actually do it. None of it is hard to accomplish, but it is easy to forget your plan in the excitement as the shark gets close to the boat. Makos at the last few moments always look awesome.

If there are new crew members on board it helps to spend a brief time going through the gaffing procedure to be sure everyone knows exactly what to do.

With a thought-out gaffing procedure, few sharks will ever be lost at boatside.

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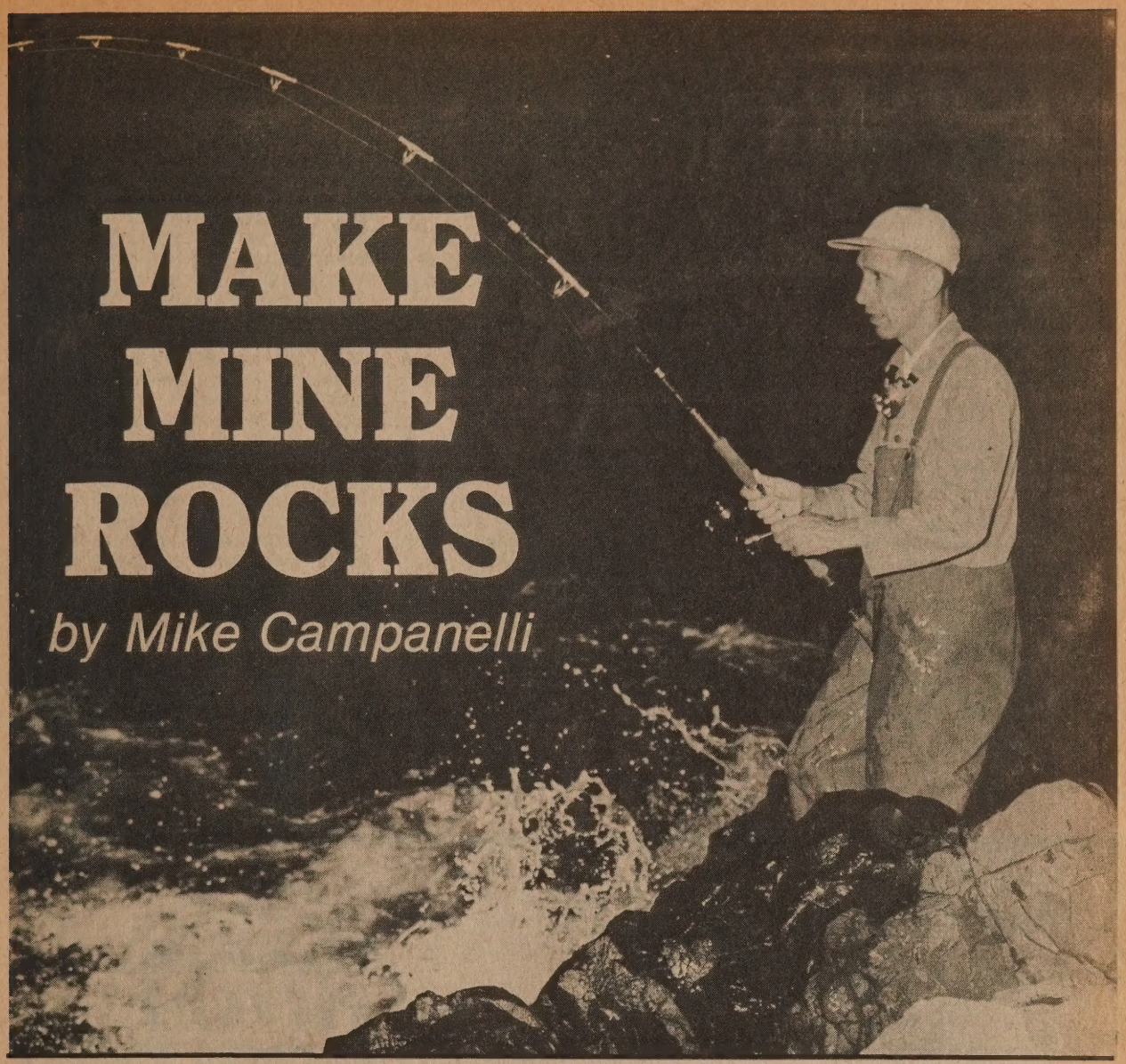
MAKE MINE ROCKS

by Mike Campanelli



Billy goat surfmen enjoy pretty consistent action from their rocky perch.

The eel sailed through the air in a slow arc and hit the water with little or no splash. After slack was taken out of the line, the rod tip began its rhythmic up and down motion. The eel was slowly worked closer and closer to the jetty until forward motion was suddenly stopped. No savage hit, just the feeling that the eel was no longer free moving. The rod arched back with the feeling of a sudden weight at the other end of the line. For a second, nothing seemd to happen and then suddenly the line came stripping off the reel against a tight drag. The old Crack gave no sound, for the spool's clicker had been removed. No need to advertise the fact that a fish was on. The fish first ran straight out away from the jetty. After a short fight the fish was slowly worked back to the jetty. As the fish came within sight of the rocks, a second stronger run was made back towards and parallel with the beach. I was forced to hop-skip over the top of the jetty to the beach. As the fish headed for the next jetty, luck again was with me, for the safety ropes and floats of the local beach club had been taken in for the fall. Putting the hurts to the fish just as a wave caught her, 44 pounds of striper slid up onto the sand. Large bass are the main reason I'm so attracted to jetties, and once again, a jetty had lived up to its bass holding reputation.

Of all the types of surf fishing, jetty fishing has to be the most demanding of a surfman's skills and abilities. Long Island has a fine collection of jetties starting at Breezy Point all the way to Montauk Point. While the rocks under the light are not a true jetty, they are fished much the same way. The north shore has a few jetties, but they do not seem to produce as well as their south shore counterparts, due probably to the fact that they are harder to reach and thus not fished as hard. The south shore jetties range in size from small wooden ones at Fort Tilden to the large rock inlet jetties like Jones Beach West End. While I'm sure someone will argue the point, other than maybe the bridges, jetties are the most consistent bass producers on Long Island.

The reason why is so simple: the open sand beaches do not hold the bait for any amount of time. No bait, no bass. The jetties offer protection to both, thus holding the bait and the bass.

Jetties seem to have their own populations of bass. These resident fish return each year to the same area. The jetties are not dependent solely on schools of migrating bass in the spring and fall.

Now before you even set foot on a jetty, you had better sit down and take stock of your equipment. The first

(Continued on next page.)

thing to look at is what to wear on your feet. This is the most important item of equipment needed for jetty fishing. Pick the wrong rod and reel, have no gaff, or wear no protective clothing and the worst that may happen is you lose a fish or two, or maybe get wet. Jetty jockeys are like all surfmen and each has his idea of what's right for them. Some use boots with felt or indoor/outdoor carpeting on the bottom. While felts will suffice in the early spring, they are not recommended later in the season as the rocks start to build up with grass. The creeper type of footwear is then needed. Creepers are basically boots or sandals with metal spikes of some kind on the bottoms. There are commercially made creepers. The Dale Clemens catalog carries a costly pair called Korkers that have removable steel spikes. At the other end of the spectrum is the old Army surplus ice creepers which are cheap, but very uncomfortable and awkward. Remember, you will be spending a couple of hours standing on them and so comfort is important. Some people use plain golf shoes, but then must fish with wet feet. Not a pleasant way to fish, especially in the early spring or late fall. Most jetty fishermen, though, build their own creepers. I've seen bottle caps bolted to sandals, rubber overshoes with sheet metal screws screwed through the bottoms, and what a lot of the wet suit crowd now are using—golf spikes attached to heavy industrial rubbers. I, myself, like the golf spikes and rubbers approach as they last the longest and are easy to replace. The rocks wear out creepers very fast, so get or build creepers with that in mind. Most jetty jockeys wear their creepers over a pair of boots. Don't wear waders on jetties as you're only looking for trouble. Waders are great for wading, but not for hopping around on top of a jetty. They cut down on your maneuverability and on some jetties, you have to be part mountain goat. To stay dry, wear boots with a good pair of splash pants and a rain top. A thin foam life vest can be worn underneath the rain top should you not be a swimmer.

A surf belt should be worn, not to keep water out, like in waders, but to hang your equipment on. You are going to have to carry everything and not lay it all over the top of the jetty where a wave could easily wash it away. And what should be carried are the tools that will make things easier. It's amazing how many times I've had other fishermen ask to borrow my knife or pliers. Remember, most nights you'll probably fish alone and so you must be self-reliant.

One item I'm seldom without is a good set of sportsman type pliers. Don't skimp: get the large six inch model, as the smaller models will not cut a 2/0 hook. That piece of advice was learned the hard way one night when a weak flipped a darter hook into my palm.

A good bait knife should also be carried, something in a stainless steel. But you will have to keep sharpening it as stainless does not hold an edge very well. Even if both the pliers and knife are stainless, keep both well oiled and try to get them plastic sheaths. Other items needed are a rope stringer to keep from losing fish into the rocks and for carrying fish off a jetty. A fish billy is a good idea; the top of a wet, slippery rock is no place to fool with a struggling fish. A long handled gaff should be carried. One about six to eight feet long is best. A large shark hook with its barb removed can be used, epoxied into an aluminum tube or an old fishing rod blank. Sometimes on smaller jetties you can walk a fish into the beach, making it easy to land if you're alone. At other times in rough water and on the larger jetties, you'll thank your lucky stars for a long gaff. Make sure you keep a good point on the gaff hook or one night you'll come up with a couple of scales and no fish. Carry a small file inside your jacket in case you should bounce the point against a rock. Try to keep the point protected and covered when not in use. One last piece of equipment needed is a good light, since the best bass fishing is done at night. A Just-rite is good or a waterproof flashlight

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with a piece of surgical tubing taped to it so it can be hung around the neck. Stay away from those tiny skin diver's flashlights. While on a beach they'll give enough light to work by, but they do not throw a bright enough beam to gaff a fish by. A good light with fresh batteries should always be carried. It could save you from taking a serious fall. Learn to look before you take a step. A word of warning: there is, on some jetties, a type of rock which is perfectly smooth like gray glass. Even with creepers you'll slip off it, so again, look before you leap. Learn also to keep one eye out for waves. Usually waves just splash against the rocks, wetting everything with a fine spray. But from time to time a larger than usual wave may wash over the top of the jetty. If it catches you unawares, it could wash you off the jetty. And there will be some nights when discretion will be needed. Either wait till the tide has gone out a little more or change plans and fish the beach. Just such a large wave caught me one rough night. It broke a fine Harnell rod in half and demolished a Garcia 7000. I lost some equipment that night, but not my life. Too often the papers will run a story of some unlucky fisherman getting washed off and drowned, and the grapevine will circulate stories of fishermen who broke a leg or something. And the stories more often than not will be about some experienced jettymen. While they knew what they were doing they, like myself, became over-confident. You need a healthy respect for the rocks and a whole lot more for the ocean that beats against them.

The only thing I haven't covered is what type of rod, reel, and terminal equipment to use. Since each jetty has its own quirks, each is fished a different way. Bait produces better on some jetties, while others lend themselves to plugs and at different times of the year they switch. For plugging I like the standard 11½ Lami with two feet cut from the butt. Its shortened length makes it easy to handle. Ideal for the cast and move technique used when plugging a jetty. The rod has plenty of backbone to handle a good sized fish, but can cast small or large plugs equally well. When bait fishing, an 11½ foot surf stick is best. The long rod helps to hold the line out from the rocks and you don't lose as many rigs. When fishing bait, it's best to use mono as dacron line gets hung up in the rocks more readily. So, unless you can handle a conventional reel loaded with mono, save your conventional for working rigged eels or large swimming plugs when on the rocks.

Putting this all together will take time and experience. This is the only true secret of surf fishing you'll probably ever learn. You have to spend the time, the fishless nights, the nights the fish wins, or the rocks and waves humble you. In the end these things all build the skills you'll need to be a jetty fisherman. But, then again, I think jetties are worth it!

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SHORE FLUKE TACTIC

by Andy Regina

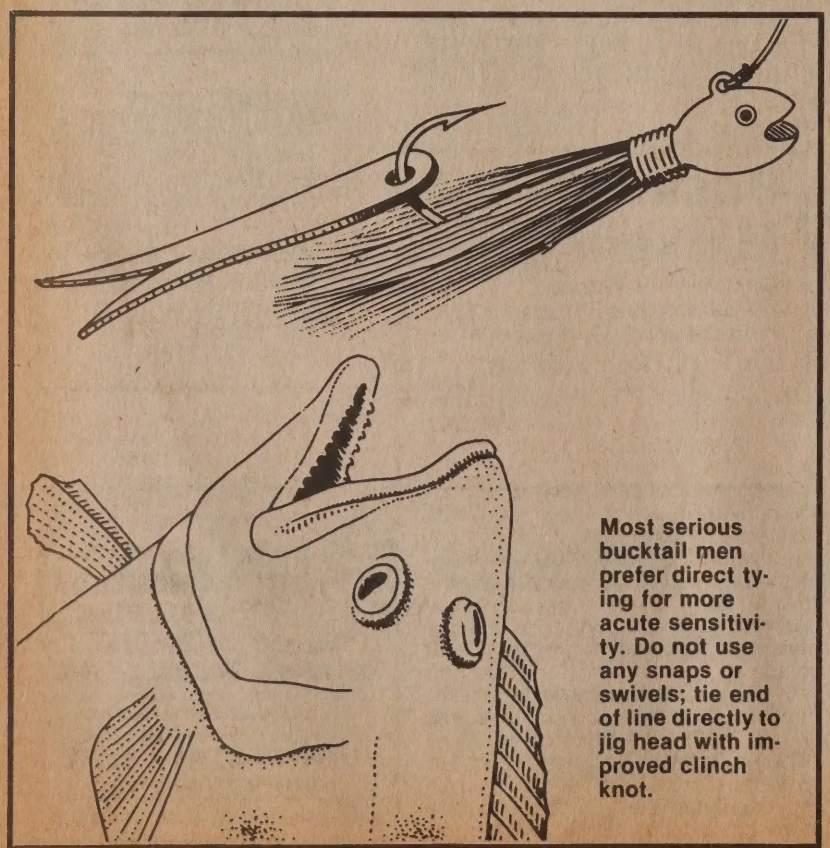
Bucktail jigs are equally as effective for shore anglers seeking summer flounder.

Dick Mermon has been insisting for years that bucktails are one of the most effective lures you can use to catch fluke. If you don't know or have never heard of Dick, you're just not with it on the fishing scene hereabouts. Besides being the representative for Shakespeare Tackle, a feat in its own right, Dick's a well-known authority on fishing, outdoor photography and boating, and a terrific fisherman. His many magazine articles have guided me through the years and I have learned much from him, even though we have never met. So it came about that I read an article of his about catching fluke on bucktails, with great interest. He was speaking about fishing from boats at the time and I was doing most of my damage from the beach, but good sense is good sense no matter where it is used. So I decided to apply his reasoning from shore.

The first time I was successful it was quite by accident. I was waiting for a friend at his marina. We were going fishing on his boat and he was late, as usual. To while away the time I decided to try for some of the school-sized striped bass the marina swarmed with, and used a tiny white bucktail rigged to an ultralight spinning outfit. I cast the jig out and retrieved it back to me very slowly, with slight hops, in the time-honored tradition I grew up on. To my surprise I hooked and landed a small fluke, barely over the 14 inch limit then recently installed. Averse to killing such a small fish, I needed positive identification to verify such an unusual catch (we just did not catch fluke near City Island in those days!), so brought the fish to a local tackle shop. There was never any doubt in my mind, but the proprietor would have suppressed any if there was because it most definitely was a fluke.

The second encounter with fluke from the beach came out of desperation (maybe aggravation) and happened about a year later. My family had been invited to my sister-in-law's house for a Labor Day weekend. You know those type of invitations: "Come on out. Andy can help Bernie put a new concrete floor in the cellar, and we'll all have a good time!" I was ripping! Not only would I lose the last holiday of the season and miss some good fishing, I'd be doing heavy labor to boot! After an ocean of tears from Eileen, I relented and we went out to the place (she lived in Great Kills, Staten Island), got the heavy work out of the way and just hung around, eating and drinking. Seeing me go out of my mind, my brother-in-law suggested we take a ride to nearby Great Kills Park, as there was a beach and a jetty there where some fishing was available. Grabbing my tackle before he had a chance to change his mind, we drove to the park and found it to be a nice, but overcrowded place. Some guys were soaking bait from a small beach, while others were catching tiny porgies from the jetty. Rather than do either, I rigged a half ounce white bucktail to my rod, clambered over the rocks to the end of the jetty, sat down and went into my act. Another angler nearby asked what I was fishing for, and laughed at my reply of bluefish or fluke. Told that one was caught only at night on bait and that the other demanded fishing from a boat to be successful, I stuck to my guns and continued casting and retrieving. To make a long story short, I wound up with five keepers in the two to three pound class taken from that jetty that day, all on bucktails and all to the amazement of many veteran anglers who should have known better. As we enjoyed our fluke fillets that evening, the boys were lined up outside of Santo's Bait Shop, on Hylan Blvd., buying killies and spearing!

My last story deals with frustration. My brother and I had been fishing partners for years, but had drifted apart when the kids came along. As family men we were doing more babysitting and a lot less fishing. Only by bringing the family along could we try to satisfy angry wives; so we settled for combined beach/picnic/fishing trips as a cheap alternative to divorce and child support. Not the best answer, but better than no fishing at all, right? On Sunday mornings we packed our families off to Far Rockaway and as the wives and kids played on a beach reserved for swimming only, we'd go to the next beach that was off-limits to everyone



Most serious bucktail men prefer direct tying for more acute sensitivity. Do not use any snaps or swivels; tie end of line directly to jig head with improved clinch knot.

but fishermen—not a bad setup under the circumstances.

One morning I noticed one veteran angler trying to depart as unobtrusively as possible, causing me to suspect that he was trying to keep something secret from me. "Probably short bass," I thought, but my investigation revealed two stripers in the 10 pound class instead: fish he had caught on bucktails on the early tide. When my brother arrived, the guy was long gone and I was casting a bucktail towards the Atlantic Beach Bridge, telling him the story as I short-hopped the jig back to the base of the jetty. Before I was finished, my brother had edged me off the tip of the jetty and was working his own bucktail in the channel. We didn't catch anything that day, but the following week we took three nice fluke on bucktails, sliding each one up the beach between bathers and toddlers because we forgot to bring along a net.

If I accomplished anything at all with these stories besides boring you, I hope it was convincing you that fluke can be caught from shore on bucktail jigs. These stories are true and each occurred in a separate body of water: the Sound, the Atlantic and New York Bight (Staten Island). As you can judge for yourself, not only is this technique effective, but it is productive everywhere fluke are found. Like everything else though, there are certain nuances and angles to be employed that might make your day more productive, but there is nothing complicated or mysterious involved. So let us review the technique.

First off, use tackle you are familiar with and comfortable with. There is no need to buy a surf rod if you do not own one or to get an intermediate spinning outfit if you're a confirmed conventional adherent. Each will serve equally as well, with a slight edge going to the surf tackle for distance, although distance is not a prerequisite here. Fluke will come close to shore in pursuit of bait and many of our fish are caught right beyond the wash or at the very base of a jetty. The reasoning is simple: baitfish come close to the beach to evade predators in shallow water and the water close-by jetties is often deep and swift as a result of the scouring action currents create as they sweep around jetties. Fluke trap bait along the beach or lie in wait for it near jetties, so there is no need for long casts. Our favorite outfit consists of a seven foot Childre graphite Bucktail Stick, a Shimano Bantam 300 baitcasting reel, and 15 lb. test Ande pink mono line. The heavy line is a concession to the eventual possibility of accidentally hanging a real big bass, 'tho I've had no worries on this account to date! The bucktails are 1/4, 1/2, and 5/8 oz., usually all-white or all-white with a strip of mylar tied in as a lateral stripe. The bucktails are homemade from scratch, cast in plaster molds made from the original lures and sparsely tied. Different shapes produce different results, so try some lima bean shapes for strong water and bullet-heads or smileys for staying down deep.

It's necessary to try various retrieves also, especially if one particular retrieve is not productive. The jig should be allowed to settle to the bottom first in any case, and should either be dragged in very slowly along that bottom or bounced back towards you in short hops that create minor disturbances each time it touches down again. Fluke take the jigs to be either baitfish or some other form of smorgasbord—perhaps crabs or shrimp. I've been told that a jig retrieved slowly and steadily off the bottom with regular, pulsing action actually resembles a swimming squid, which is another favorite fluke delicacy.

Pick an area known to hold fluke if possible; inlets are great, especially if there's a jetty handy, like West End (Jones Inlet). Points are good prospects, too, as are some beaches like Gilgo. What we seek is strong water close to shore with rocky patches over sand or gravel (Sore Thumb, Wildwood State Park, Mattinecock Point). You'll be fishing daylight here so you can explore your beach beforehand, at low tide. Make several casts from the same spot before moving on; fan each succeeding cast out to either side of you by about 15 degrees, first working towards the right then to the left until you complete an 180 degree gamut. Each radius should be probed with an assortment of different retrieving techniques, which will give you a helluva lotta casts in any one spot before you can honestly consider that spot unproductive. Move along about 15 or 20 feet and repeat the process. On a jetty, work from the base on one side right around the tip and back down to the base on the opposite side.

If still unsuccessful, try tipping that bucktail with meat, either a strip of squid or a fillet of fish (even a strip of pork rind), and repeat the process all over again. If you can't hold bottom, switch either to a heavier jig or one shaped differently. If you can't keep off the bottom a bit when you want to, go lighter or change head shapes. You'll probably catch a lot of other fish as you try for your fluke, primarily sea robins and sundials but oftentimes weakfish, bluefish or striped bass, too. Don't harm the robins or windowpanes as you release them, and by all means release any fish unharmed that you don't keep to eat. If you curse the bluefish, as many of us do, for beating everything else to the bait or chopping off your precious jigs, simply strip off any mylar the bucktail might have and scrape all the paint off the head and you will not be bothered as much. That's why we make our own jigs. We do not paint the heads any more because bluefish always seem to strike at the painted part, but never the unpainted one. That's just one more bit to learn as you start using bucktails for fluke.

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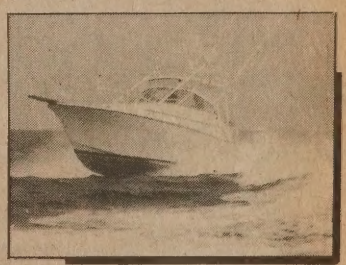

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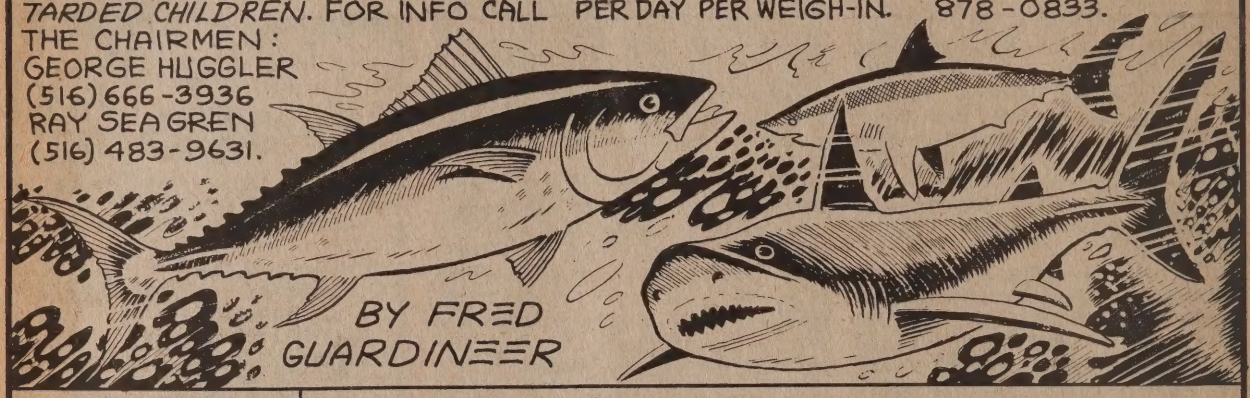

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SUMMER POTPOURRI

by Louis Mauriello

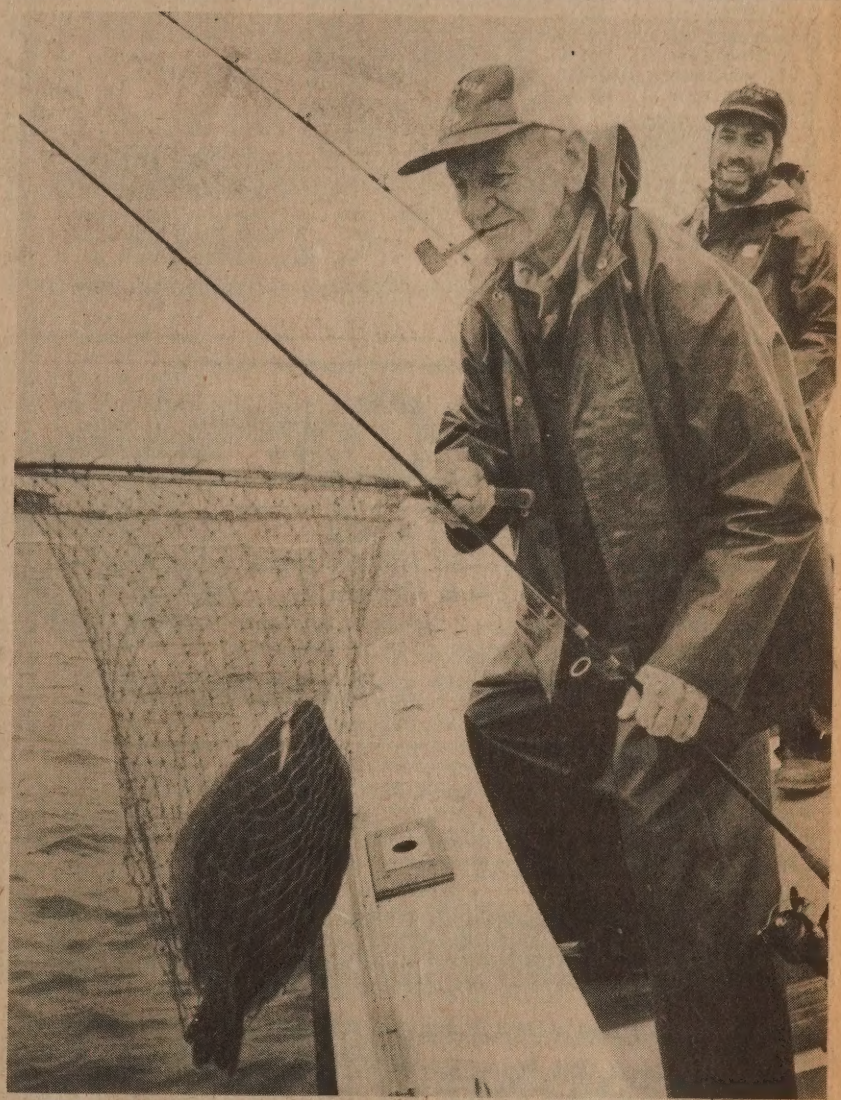
Small boat anglers harvest a mixed bag from south shore bays during the summer months.

There are few places that I can think of that are both as enjoyable and productive to fish as the south shore bays of Long Island, during the summer months. Because of the lack of truly deep water, these areas can be fished by those among us who are restricted to using small craft in relative safety. Of course, common sense must be used even in these sheltered waters. Anyone who has spent time on these waters can tell you what an afternoon southwesterly can do. You would be surprised at the chop these winds can set up in a very short period of time.

Over the years, I have discovered you don't need a big, high powered sportfisherman to fish the bays. The skiffs that are rented at most livery stations are seaworthy enough to get you out and back.

For those of us who own our own boats, there are numerous launching ramps situated along the south shore in areas that make fishing almost anywhere a short run from the dock. Two of these ramps, the one in Freeport and the one at Heckscher State Park, are state operated. Then, there are town ramps, such as the ones in Wantagh Park and John Burns Park. These are for town residents and an annual fee is charged for a sticker which is good throughout the entire year. Launching in the summer can be a bit of a pain unless you arrive early enough to beat the crowds.

During these months, my primary objective is fluke. I say "primary" because many is the time I've started after these tasty flatties only to wind up with either a mixed catch or a cooler full of an entirely different species. It is because of this that I bring various rods with me. I bring along a spinning rod with 8 or 10 lb. test line and what I like to refer to as a popping rod with 15 lb. test mono. This "popping" rod is no more than a 5½ to 6 foot long, fast taper blank with plenty of backbone, in case that big one decides to latch onto your hook. Any quality level wind reel, filled with 12 or 15 lb. test monofilament line, will balance out this outfit and help you to land just about anything you may encounter. For fluke, though, I will normally attach a sinker just heavy enough to hold bottom, by way of an overhand loop. Directly above the sinker, say about two or three inches, I tie a dropper loop to which I attach my own, home-tied fluke hooks. These hooks are nothing but a size 2/0 Sproat hook, stock #3366, snelled on a three foot leader of 20 lb. leader material. Before I go any further, I'd like to point out that if you have any trouble locating any terminal gear, you should call Roy over at Merrick Tackle. If you need it, he's got it. Back to my hooks. Although I've been questioned on numerous occasions about the use of the 2/0 Sproat as an appropriate fluke hook, I keep rehashing the same thing. It is a lightweight hook which will give the live killie, which I like as a fluke bait in the bays, as much freedom as is necessary to keep him lively, yet it is strong enough to bring large fluke to net.



Fluke are often the main target of anglers working south shore bays during July and August.

A mentioned, I don't think the live killie can be beat as bait for bay fluke. These little baitfish are native to the bays and make up a good portion of the fluke's diet. When using them though, don't be afraid to experiment. If you are using one large killie

(Continued on next page.)

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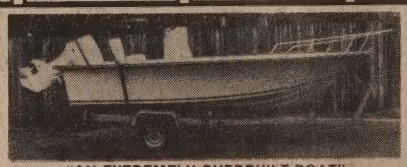

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and it isn't producing, change to two small ones or one medium size one. Fluke have a funny habit of changing their preference in the middle of a tide, so be forewarned.

Often, while fluke fishing, you may see fish breaking the surface of the bay. Sometimes, these fish may be bunker but occasionally, they will be small bluefish. I always keep a tackle box aboard my boat for just such occasions. If we spot these blues near us, it is a simple matter of tying on a metal lure and casting to them. At times, they respond well to a mackerel finish Rebel plug. I can recall a day, a few years ago, after launching at Heckscher at dawn, a friend of mine, Sal Maida, and I were travelling toward West Channel when we observed birds working. I ran toward them and began casting a Rebel. In about 45 minutes, we had 18 bay blues in the cooler and if we didn't catch another fish the rest of the day, our day was already complete.

There are times, however, that you will not see these bluefish breaking water. If you still would like to try to catch some of them, try this method. First, rig as you would for offshore baitfishing for blues. Simply tie one of your already snelled fluke hooks to your line and place a split shot just above the perfection loop. Now comes the bait. I like to use a nice fresh piece of sea robin. Not too big now, don't forget these are small fish. A piece about 1½ by 2 inches will do very nicely. Just hook the bait once, near an end, and let it drift out behind your boat. I've seen numerous bluefish and even a few greedy fluke come up on this rig and bait combo. Because these blues are of the smaller variety, I feel the wire leader, so common in bluefishing, can be dispensed with. Also, in the bays, the wire will be much more visible, thus getting you less hits.

Summer weakfish are another species which provide fine sport, and good eating. Though not as large as the spring tiderunners, they have been more numerous than the spring spawners and when taken on light tackle, give a good account of themselves. Here, too, the key to success is light tackle. These fish rarely get over five pounds, so you can use six, or even four pound test line if you can handle it. I find with these fish, as I feel is true of the bay blues, they are better eating than their larger cousins.

The blueclaw crab is another critter that is highly sought after. Though you can't really call catching crabs fishing, it is lots of fun and will provide you with the makings of some of the finest sauce you can pour over linguine.

I have spent many an enjoyable hour dropping nets and killie rings into the water for crabs. The net is the easier of the two ways to catch these beasts, but a ring is more fun. There is no need to try to locate killie rings as anyone with a pair of pliers and some wire hangers can make all he

wants. Simply clip off the part of the hanger that is twisted; next, bend the wire into a circle about six inches across. Now, with the pliers, loop the ends together. That's all there is to it. Of course, you must tie a string on it and a bit of weight so that it will stay on the bottom. When in use, simply straighten one of the looped ends and thread on about eight or nine killies. Close the loop and drop the rig to the bottom. After a bit of practice, you will be able to tell when the crabs are giving your rig attention. When you feel a crab on the rig, simply pull it to the surface and scoop up the crab with a net. Some caution should be used here in not bringing the crab out of the water but rather, the net should be in the water and slipped under the crab as he is being hauled the final few feet to the surface. I prefer using my regular fluke net for this as the opening is quite large and will forgive any errors you may make.

During some of those dog days of summer, a nice cool dip is quite refreshing. Why not combine that dip with a bit of clamming? You heard me right. There are areas where you can go clamming and bring home enough for the whole family to enjoy. Don't get caught on closed clam beds though. Some of those beds are closed due to pollution and others are privately leased. My suggestion is to stop in or call the local Bay Constable's office in advance and get the maps they have for the open areas in your region. In my town, the Town of Hempstead, a non-commercial clamming permit is required and can be obtained from the Dept. of Conservation and Waterways, which is located just west of the Loop Pkwy bridge in Point Lookout. I strongly suggest you get any permits required, as you can find yourself on the receiving end of a fine for any illegal clams you might dig.

I don't like to clutter my boat up too much, so my clamming is done by treading. We simply anchor the boat over a flat at low tide and hop in. I find it best when the water is at my waist or lower. You can go barefoot or wear a pair of light tennis shoes and feel along the bottom for clams. The best way I've found is to make believe you are grinding out a cigarette with your feet. In this way you will be able to get down a few inches into the sand and find clams you may have stepped over. When you feel something hard under your foot, just reach down and grab it with your hand and hope it's not a crab. If you take along a lemon in your cooler, you can enjoy fresh clams on the half shell—the kind you pay $4 for in a restaurant.

Remember, when fishing, try to carry a selection of tackle with you so that you're prepared for the unexpected species. This rule can make or break a day. If crabbing or clamming, know the laws. Armed with the proper tackle, and some knowledge of the areas you will be fishing in, you'll be able to enjoy your own summer potpourri.

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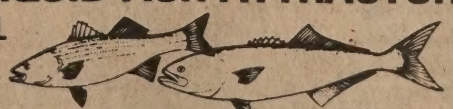

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GEAR UP FOR CANYON FISHING

Part Two—*by Lou Truppi*

Accessory equipment can play a vital role in canyon fishing success.

In the first article I covered the tackle choices that govern today's canyon fishermen. Just as important is what I'll refer to as the support group of gear that enables you to land even that outsized trophy marlin or tuna. In this group you can include the lures, baits, outriggers, downriggers, gaffs, tail ropes, gin poles, meat hooks, and fighting chairs.

Category one—we can combine both lures and baits. Probably about 95 percent of the anglers who ply the canyon waters of the northeast coast rely on lures to bring home the bacon. Why? Simply because they're easy to rig, fish, and they have produced outstanding catches up and down the Atlantic Seaboard.

Color selection, how they're rigged, and setting a pattern can all play an important role in an angler's success. Lures are simply dragged astern in many instances. In spite of this, even casual anglers produce incidental big fish catches. But it's the angler who develops a pattern consisting of compatible running lures who produces consistently. Most agree color is of secondary importance, but if I had to rely on one color choice of the northeast coast, then green and yellow would be it. Other patterns that have produced were red/white, orange/yellow, purple/blue, and flo green/yellow combinations. The darting lures such as the big Kona heads have not produced for me. Most of my big catches have come via the straight running wiggle heads such as the jets, softheads, yap and all eye lures.

As of late, sound has been found to play an important role in attracting pelagic species. Many manufacturers now include some form of sound producing lure head in their line-up. Going one step further, I would venture to say that certain lures create unique sounds as they pass through the surface of the water. Many heads, especially the jet styles, will catch consistently for me. Therefore, you should take note at what speed a particular lure produces. Maintaining a log book denoting where each lure has caught a fish, that is, how far astern and water conditions on that day, can provide you with important future information.

I have come to realize that certain lures I possess have accounted for 90 percent of my big fish. These lures have consistently caught in certain positions on the wake. In fact, one has been so effective I now only troll it on my heaviest stand-up outfit. So, you can see there is a lot more to trolling than merely dragging lures randomly astern.

Baits, although not as popular, are still used by some. Mullet, balao, squid and eels all make excellent skipping baits. In fact, as more deep trolling methods are uncovered, baits have been making somewhat of a comeback. Used in conjunction with suitable downriggers, I know of one captain who has taken big eyes over 300 lbs., 60 to 100 feet down. Deep trolling utilizing downriggers in our canyons is in its infancy. More on this method in future articles.

Outriggers for those of you who don't know, are simply long poles that spread your lines when trolling. No matter what size boat you venture offshore in, you must have outriggers. I've always opted for the longest that my boat could handle. For skiffs to 26 ft. in length, 18 to 26 ft. length poles are suitable. Depending on your boat's topside design, these longer poles should be fitted with spreaders. The spreaders are nothing more than wire brackets that can be loosened or tightened by a turnbuckle, that add stiffness to the outrigger pole. All boats with marlin or tuna towers should have a single pin release system that functions from the tower. Rockaway, Rupp and other top brands all feature this quick release and reset feature.

On smaller boats that do not have towers, then a hard or soft top mounted above the console can include brackets in which the outriggers may be mounted. This posi

Proper equipment and teamwork helped put this big-eye tuna in the boat.

tion will keep the decks clear, but remember to allow extra length line for each pole. This will enable you to work the rigger easier from the deck. Outrigger poles made of aluminum are the best choice due to their stiffer casings. This can be an important point when heavy lure or baits are towed at high speeds. Stiffer outriggers, I've found, will carry more lines and perform better under most sea conditions.

Downriggers are rapidly gaining acceptance on the saltwater front. Anglers have found that lures and baits run under the surface produce. Inshore anglers recognized this fact years ago, but now serious offshore anglers are beginning to experiment trolling lures and baits down to 100 ft., especially on those flat, calm days when surface temperatures rise and cause many species to seek the cooler depths. Downriggers can save the day. Another important factor is that both baits and lures may be trolled on the downriggers. Also, by sinking a couple of lines under the surface you can add more lines to your pattern.

Gaffs, tail ropes, gin poles and Bimini doors are good ideas when a big fish must be boated. Flying gaffs should include the 4 and 6 inch sizes. It's a good idea to have some two hand gaffs in conjunction with the other gaffs. The flying gaff serves nicely on all big fish, while the smaller gaffs fill the bill for the mid-size gamesters. Many anglers, myself included, carry a small two inch gaff for use on small fish such as dolphin and bonito. Once a big fish is brought alongside, then provisions must be made to bring him on board. On most boats a meat hook is used. This is a heavy gauge stainless hook that can withstand weight of a big fish. A fish such as a 300 lb. big eye can prove to be a considerable job when the fish has to be lifted from the water over the gunwale and placed on deck without damage to fish or boat. The best procedure to follow is to place a rope around the tail of the fish. This can be a 5/8 to 3/4 inch nylon rope spliced to a heavy duty cable loop that can secure the fish boatside temporarily and lift the fish aboard later.

Many tail ropes consist of a simple piece of nylon with a spliced loop in lieu of the cable. The main difference here is that the loop without the cable addition is harder to work with when you're in a hurry. Now the meat hook and gin pole, and/or Bimini door, come into play.

The heavy gauge meat hook is now secured to the forward portion of the fish. For this purpose you should have spliced at least 15 ft. of 5/8 inch nylon to the hook's handle. Once the hook is secure, the fish can be safely lifted into the boat. A conveniently placed gin pole can facilitate this procedure. If it's a really big fish make sure the pole is strong enough to support the fish's weight. If your boat features a Bimini door setup, all the better. A Bimini door is simply a small doorway incorporated into the boat's stern. These doors can usually be opened seaward so that the inside deck space is kept clear. The height of the door off the water can relate directly to the ease of putting the fish on the deck. In most instances, if the fish is large, the captain can back the boat into the sea to help float the fish aboard. Another neat trick used by Captain George Seeman of the Mitchell III out of Montauk, N.Y., was to use a come-along to move the fish through the door. A stanchion pole was added to the engine room to which the come-along was mounted. To gain access, a small hatch was cut in the lower deck. Pop the hatch and the come-along could be pressed into action.

Last, but not least, is the fighting chair—sometimes referred to as the torture chair. This need not be the case. The top of the line chairs such as Rockaway are indeed a pleasure to use. They're not only beautiful to look at, but they can almost make it a pleasure to land a big fish.

The quality of chair can vary for two reasons. First, and obvious, is the cost. Top of the line chairs are expensive. Most, however, are made to accommodate boats that make the chair's price seem like a bargain. On the other hand, a chair designed for a small boat needn't be as heavy duty as one designed for a 40 footer. The powerful runs of a giant tuna will not move the heavier vessel. Therefore, the chair bears the brunt of the fish's weight. The smaller skiff will actually be towed by a big fish. So, a lighter duty chair can serve nicely.

The important criteria to remember on both chairs is the quality of construction. Check on how the gimbal is mounted. It's a good idea to make sure you choose an adjustable style so that both straight and bent butt rods may be used. Other features to check on are the base construction and mounting. The chair seat should also be as smooth as possible since you'll be sliding on its surface when pumping the fish. Foot rests, of course, are a must. They should be chosen for ease of adjustment and strength. Remember, in the chair fitted with a proper kidney harness, your power is derived from your legs. You'll be pushing off from the foot rest, so it's indeed an important part of the chair.

Another factor is that the chair should fit the boat. A big chair that hogs the whole cockpit and impedes crew movement can cost you a fish. Size one to give you ample cockpit room even when chair must be swung all the way over to one side or another. There are some really nice smaller chairs on the market now, such as Rockaway's White Marlin model. Expensive, yes, but oh, so beautiful and precision built.

Finally, when any type of offshore tackle or gear is purchased, strive to buy the best. No, I'm no millionaire, but believe me, the best is worth the extra money. Chances are it won't fail when you need it the most!

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FLOAT A BAIT FOR FLUKE

by Don Brown

This unique approach to fluking is simple to master and can pay big dividends when conditions are right.

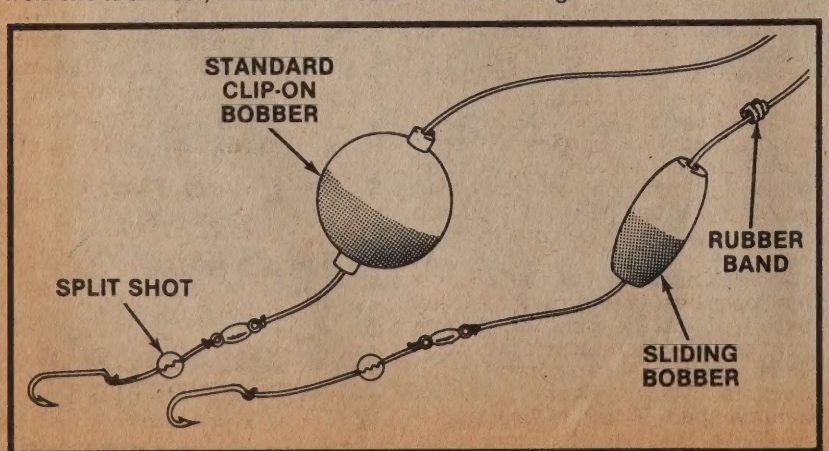
Probably one of the most under-utilized methods of fluke fishing would be with the use of a float or bobber, which is a surprise to me. But then, I guess it shouldn't be a surprise considering the fact that with all fishing, most anglers use the most common method—whatever it may be. And why not, if it is a proven method, then stick with what works. The float method which also works should be used more often because I'll tell you, at times it is a very productive way of catching fluke and lots of fun as well.

Float fishing for fluke is probably one of the easiest methods of fluking. You anchor up instead of drifting or trolling. You anchor the boat and sit there and let the current move your bait for you. You don't even have to jig the bait. You watch for the float to drop out of sight before sending home the hook.

When I first learned of the use of a float for fluke I was told that it was strictly a shallow water type of fishing and that was the only place I would use it, too. But, since then, I have found that this method also can be used in deeper water as well. I have used these floats for fluke in three feet of water and as deep as 12 and 15 feet.

When fishing in shallow water, the standard clip-on bobber would be just fine. Set the bobber at whatever the depth that you are fishing and go. This is a good float for water depths from two to six feet; after that I would switch over to a sliding float. This way you would be able to crank the fish in within easy netting range. If you were to use a fixed float, you would have to bring in the remaining line by hand and run the risk of losing your fish. That is why this type of bobber is best used in shallow water where there is only a small amount of line left and still easy to net your fish. With the sliding float that I use and with most sliding floats there are rubber bands right in the packaging that you buy them in. The rubber band is used as a stopper. You tie the band at whatever depth you are fishing, cast the float over and the rubber band will stop it at the depth you have it set for. With the rubber band you can crank it right up through the guides without any damage or trouble, still enabling you, the angler to use his or her rod and reel to bring the fish to the net.

I have been using a light rod of seven feet and have had no trouble at all with it; and I have taken some decent sized fluke with this size rod. One of the good things about this type of fishing is that it is not a highly technical style of fishing; you don't need a specific type of rod or reel. Anything will do. I use light tackle so that I can add to the fun of the trip when I go one on one with the summer flatfish. My reel is a small Penn filled with eight pound test line. A heavy rod, or known as a meat stick, would take a lot of the action out of the fishing.



As far as rigging is concerned, some of the guys tie their hooks directly to the line from the reel. I don't do this because of the small pound test line that I use. Fluke have very sharp teeth and can easily chew through this test line so I use a 15 or 20 pound test leader line to prevent a cutoff. A leader of about a foot long will be just about right. The size of the hook will vary with the angler. Hook sizes from a #1 to a 2/0 size are most common. The style of hook will also change according to preference of the angler. Some prefer to use a short shank hook, while others use the standard shank hook. I prefer the short shank hook. It is harder to see than the other types, bettering my chances of catching more fish. I have used them all at one time or another and still do, but I settle on a #1/0 size hook for fishing with a float.

After you have your rig all set up, you should add a split shot to help keep your bait down where the fish are. Without the added weight of the split shot your bait might lift off the bottom and away from the fish like clothes hanging on a clothes line in the wind.

When selecting bait, you'll want to use live bait. One of my favorites is live shrimp. I have witnessed many a fluke spit up these shrimp when bringing them into the boat to convince me of their effectiveness. I have found that fluke will really jump on them. This, though, is just one of the baits that will work. Live killies is another good one. Live spearing or snapper blues are two more of the top bait that will attract a hungry fluke. When hooking these live baits, take care that you don't kill them. Just hook the bait fish through that thin skin in-between the lip and the head. This will also give you a natural look which is important. Shrimp can be hooked through the tail or the head.

I find that the end of the day is the best time, when the boating activity is slowing down some and most fishermen are calling it a day. This is when fluke may put on a show for you. Few people realize that fluke will come to the surface to feed at times. I have even seen them jump completely out of the water in pursuit of bait fish, and this is one of those times.

East End REPORT

with Bob Lee

With porgies starting to build, just about everything else except striped bass right now is hot on the Island's East End. Shark are around in huge numbers, particularly blue shark and mako, while inshore fluke catches are good and bluefish are just dynamite. A few weaks are even getting in on the action.

MONTAUK

We hear from Capt. Phil Lewis of the charter boat **Adios** that the offshore sharking is fantastic with 4 makos boated Thursday. The highlight of the week on Phil's boat was 17 year old Rickie Yonkers who had the first bluefin tuna of the season as far as Phil knew on any of the Montauk boats. The 290 lb. fish took 40 minutes to get boated. Scott Powell on Saturday landed a 206 lb. mako while on Wednesday's trip Sal Ciullo had a mako and on Saturday's Trip John Conelli had another mako. On Sunday Joe Cutuli joined the family of mako marauders. Plenty of blue shark action with individuals running 200 to 300 lbs. which are being tagged and released. As for the bluefish, they are just all over the place.

From Maureen at **Gone Fishing Marina** we learned of blues and weaks being taken at Outer Shagwong on Ava 47s. On Sat. Capt. Bob Stork's charter boat **Caprice** a box of weaks was caught, fish up to 9 lbs. Capt. Bill Ricca's charter boat **Alyssa Ann** told of excellent bottom fishing for sea bass, porgies and especially fluke, hotspots being Gin Beach and Shagwong. On Saturday Mr. and Mrs. Newman and friends had a solid catch of fluke to 3½ lbs. aboard Bill's boat. The bigger fluke are being taken at North Rips. Twelve fluke to 6 lbs. was Saturday's score on the private boat Bon-E-Len. Dave Emerson took a 287 lb. mako on Friday fishing SE of the Point in 200 feet of water and on Thursday, Charlie Tota had 3 makos south of the Point which averaged 110 pounds.

Manny Dirades and friends stand with part of a 180 cod catch made south of Block Island. The trio fished aboard the charter boat, "Montauk" and took the fish on both jigs and clam bait.

This 153 lb. mako was taken by the Neil Sudenfeld party at Montauk aboard the "Mako Express."

Aboard the charter boat **Montauk** reports come in of continuing super sharking with blue shark being represented most strongly. The boat had 2 makos on Monday, a 164 lber. for John Bowers, Sands Point, and a 196 lber. for Tom Grady, Manhasset. They also had 15 blue shark up to 250 lbs. which were T and R. More and more longfin tuna are popping up everyday. Capt. Mike heard of a 690 lb. mako taken on a private boat which had a good size blue shark in its stomach. The blue shark, in turn, had a hook in its mouth and a hunk of wire attached thereto. Lots of swordfish are being sighted. There are acres of bluefish from 70 to 170 feet of water. Looks like an excellent offshore season said Mike and there's lots of bait in the water also. He's been working the first finger which is loaded with tinker mackerel.

Little Bear and **Flying Cloud** had a good Saturday on porgies at Gardiner's. Sunday was off, but Monday fishing at the Light all fares had anywhere from 12 to 20 jumbo Montauk porgies. Real quality fishing.

Aboard Capt. Bud Dorman's 6 man limit open boat **Waxed** there has been excellent porgy fishing. Jumbo porgies fill 5-gallon buckets everyday. Some anglers have topped 2 full buckets. Marvin Baer of NJ on Saturday had 87 lbs. of fish singlehandedly. Bud says the porgies he

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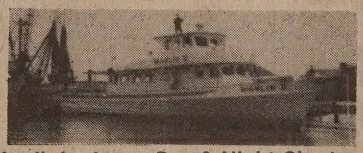

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catches are so big that the collect social security. Incidental catches include sea bass, flounder, fluke, cod and weaks.

Captain Richie Rade's **Marlin Fleet** had good porgy fishing Friday and Saturday with catches ranging from 15 to 30 fish a man caught locally and of the medium class. The fluking has been very good on the two half day trips to the tune of 6-8 keepers a man fish running up to 8 lbs. North rips is the scene of the action on sand eels, spearing or squid. The night blue-fishing trips have been very productive with catches averaging over 20 choppers per angler, fish running in the 10-15 lb. range off Block Island.

Captain Paul Forsberg of the **Viking Fleet** had customers very happy over the weekend with solid codfish catches, fish running 10-18 lbs. Saturday and Sunday were full bag days but Monday was more picky. Fantastic was the skipper's word for the night bluefish which ran 12-15 lbs. Fares filled sacks with no problem south of B.I. Porgy catches were good Friday and Saturday, but slowed Sunday. Monday's porgies were super under the Light. Saturday through Monday saw good fluke catches in North Rips.

Aboard charter boats **Blue I and IV** on Monday the Schwartz group of Westchester totalled six big pollock, 35-45 lbs. off Block Island plus 50 good bluefish. Tuesday's score was another roughly 50 bluefish while on Wednesday the Schwartz group fishing Gardiner's Island again had 50 smaller blues. A charter for the Levin group Thursday hoisted 50 big blues. Friday the Ashinoff group had big blues and 15-20 blue shark, T&R. Saturday's catch was several big blues and 17 blue shark T&R. The Ashinoff group sailed again Sunday taking several blues and 9 blue shark, T&R. They tried to bait two swords and a white marlin to no avail. A 20 lb. albacore was trolled up, however. **BF I** also had lots of blues each trip and on Sunday for the Perez group a 250 lb. swordfish was taken plus 50 blues.

Aboard Capt. Jack Passie's charter boat **Windy** we learned that blue sharking was super this week, with

Nine-year-old Chris Logerfo and a tub full of flounder he caught off oa the Landing Motel dock in Lake Montauk on April 30. Subscriber photo.

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15-20 blue shark brought to the boat each day, then being T&R. Saturday saw very big blue shark taken with 6 in the 200-300 lb. class. Fish in the 90-100 lb. class were taken Sunday. On Monday Night Bill Bercanti of Island Park had 4 bass from 32 to 39 lbs. on the skipper's famous trolled plugs. A few albies were also taken on Saturday. Sunday's charter was for Jerry Bovy and group. Jack said his best action was in the east end of the Butterfish Hole.

Saturday on Capt. Joe McBride's **My Mate** Paul Frescha and friends caught and released 5 blue sharks to 180 lbs. They kept 20 big bluefish in the 15 lb. range. On Sunday, weaks showed at the Point and some good scores were made. Inshore at Gardiner's there were loads of small blues around. Joe advised that he still has some choice open dates available.

Aboard Capt. Bruce Keiffer's **Ebb Tide** charters enjoyed lots of shark action south of the Point with plenty of blues and some makos. Bluefishing has been red hot at Cartwright.

Aboard Capt. John DeMaio's charter boat **Vivienne** customers are averaging big blues over 10 lbs. in weight, fishing south of the Point. "All you can handle," said John. Weaks also in evidence at Shagwong with 106 taken Sunday and Monday. The weaks are averaging 7½ lbs. and most fish being caught casting home-made weakfish lures manufactured in a tiny corner in the skipper's attic.

SOUTH FORK

The word from Capt. Artie Lach of the **Wilhelric II** is that the wind knocked out Tuesday and Wednesday's fluking for the most part. Other boats did 10-15 fluke a man during the week when there was no wind. Seventy-five percent were keepers and pools were in the 5 lb. range. These catches were made while Artie was porgy fishing. His porgy passengers have been very happy with excellent catches of 30-50 porgies a man as Artie puts it, from the smallest to the biggest. The boat fishe the west side of Gardiner's and the north side of Plum on worm and clams.

From Chris at **Bayview Fishing Station** we learned that porgies slowed on the weekend, but catches were good during the week, best action at Cedar Point, Gibsons and buoy 11. Blues also slowed over the weekend due to heavy boat traffic but catches were good Monday thru Friday trolling and casting. Fluking improved quite a bit around the Ruins.

Helen at **Noyac Marina** told of quite a few small weaks at the east side of Jessup's between the Point and buoy 16. One boat had 20 fish there on worms and on squid strips. Porgy action has been good at buoys 16 and 17. This would be on clam and worm.

Starting Monday, July 11th the Station will be open weekdays 7AM to 5PM and also the same on weekends.

From **Speck's** in **Southampton** we hear that fluking was quiet on the weekend but there was a lot to be heard from the blues and a few schoolie bass at Heddy Creek and the inlet. Gardiner's had decent fluking with fish averaging 2-3 lbs. going up o 7 lbs. The Gardiner's porgies have been of good size and the numbers are building. The Peconics are yielding small to medium porgies along with small blues and weaks from 2-3 lbs. Offshore action has been good at 30 fathoms swordfish have been sighted. Jim Fuchtman had a 175 lb. mako for his efforts.

Sailing out of **Hampton Bays** Capt. Fred Webbley's charter boat **Sea Mist** has been having larger blue shark catches, fish now in the 200 lb. class, plus some duskies. Big bluefish are now also swarming in 100 to 110 feet of water.

Corr's Fishing Station told of fluke caught Saturday by John Cromley at the south end of the Canal, East Channel and the Ponquogue Bridge. John had 8 keepers to 5½ lbs. Flounder still holding up in the Basket area. Rudy Williams and Charlie Hatchell and son Mark hoisted 75 flounder to 2¼ lbs. at the Basket., Plenty of small blues and a few bass to 21 lbs. down around the inlet trolled on umbrellas.

South Shore REPORT

with Fred Golofaro

Flatfish fans working the Moriches area continue to do a good job on flounder despite the calendar and the heat wave of the past week. Fluke remain a disappointment to most anglers in both bays but sharpies have managed some respectable scores. Small blues clog both inlets and offshore action continued on an upbeat note.

MORICHES BAY & INLET

Flounder fishing remained good this week south of buoy 34, according to Gary Grunseich of **Silly Lilly Fishing Station.** Key to the action has been working the top half of the tide on either the flood or ebb. Ted Flood, Caroline Harris, Betty Richardson and R. Lee had the right combination on Friday. The group put away 135 keepers and 4 fluke. Of the fluking, Gary said that Mary Baker and Cindy Zimmerman worked the flats east of

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THE FISHERMAN
All the news of fish in print.

Mike and Dee Goldstein and Glen Hamer and Charles Pendelbury with their first shark, a big blue which was checked in at Molnar's Landing in Hampton Bays.

the radio shack one day last week and finished up with 13 keepers. "Still plenty of small blues in the bay and inlet" added Gary.

Jim DeVita of **Skidmore's Fishing Station** suggested the last 2 hours of the flood and the first 2 hours of the ebb for flounder. Some very nice size fish still remain in the bay as evidenced by the 3.2 pound flattie that Dominick Sardone, Sr. found among his 50 fish catch on Sunday. Dom had help from his son, Dom, Jr. Fishing was done south of buoy 36. Best shot at fluke is between buoys 42 and 43. At least 2 good scores were made in this area on Saturday. Regulars Matt and John Viol culled 19 keepers from the spot while Joe Sanderand a friend finished with 20 keepers from the same area. White bucktails or Salty Dogs tipped with a squid strip turned the trick for these anglers. Jim was even more enthused about the 9½ pound blackfish which he took at the Inlet last week on a green crab.

Flounder still going strong between buoys 36 and 39 and fluke slow but improving in the buoy 41 area. That was the word from Jim Greene of **L & M Marine** in **East Moriches**. Jim also reported that the charter boat **Tender Loving Care**, skippered by Capt. Tony Rizzo, has been catching plenty of blue sharks south of Moriches. On Monday, a pair of 150 pound duskies were landed as well. Larry Ryan and his family filled the box with small blues, during a ½ day charter on Sunday. Big blue are camped SE 6 the Inlet in 75-90' of water.

GREAT SOUTH BAY/ FIRE ISLAND INLET

From Paul Graniello at **J & J Tackle** in **Patchogue** came word of good crabbing in both Corey Creek and Patchogue River. Small blues are a daily occurrence at the Smith Point Bridge and weaks in the 1-3 pound range are being taken off of Brown's River (Sayville) and Ocean Beach on small single hook diamond jigs fitte4d with a strip of squid or an earthworm. Largest fluke honors for the week went to Tom Schlicter for his 5.3 pounder taken in Moriches.

Vinny at **South Bay Fishing Station** in **West Sayville** reported that some boats managed up to a dozen keeper fluke in Ocean Beach area. Weaks in the 1½-2 pound range are around but hard to pin down and 1-4 pound blues are everywhere. Dave and Mike Perry returned to the station on Saturday with 12 fluke and a few bluefish.

John "Rod" DiGiacomo of **J & R Sports Center** in **Oakdale** told of a 190 pound mako for Wolfgang of Wolfgang and Craig Auto Parts on Saturday. Taken in 165' of water 135 degrees from the inlet, it was the anglers first shark. Good sharking continued through the weekend. Both

John Kropp and son Darren with 17 fluke to 4½ lbs. taken in Moriches Bay. Photo courtesy of Skidmore's Fishing Station in East Moriches.

jiggers (Ava 007's) and trollers continue to load up on small blues at the inlet and plenty of small weaks are being taken off of Heckscher on sandworms or squid and small leadheads. They range anywhere from 1-4 pounds. Crabbing at the West Sayville Town Dock remains good.

"Lots of blues in the inlet but also back in the bay" said Mike Cioffi of **Peppy's Tackle Shop** in **East Islip**. Mike and Joe Santamaria cast around Sexton Island for an hour on Saturday and took 16 choppers in the 2-4 pound range. Best bet for fluke has be en the lighthouse area where better size fish seem to predominate. Overall, fluking has been on the slow side.

"Tough fluking in general but a fair pick at Dickerson Channel on incoming water" according to Carl Miller of **Smokey's Tackle Shop** in **Bay Shore**. One boatman managed 8 keepers here and another had 13. Loads of small blues to 4 pounds in the bay and at the inlet with bigger fish SE of the inlet in 80-100' of water on jigs and bait. Offshore fishing perked up with white marlin sighted in 150' of water SE. Both bluefin and yellowfin tuna were mixed with them.

Over at **Captree**, a fine run of bluefish brought smiles to the faces of many captains. Capt. Speedy Hubert of the **Speedy VI** described the nighttime action as fantastic and the daytime activity as good on most days and excellent on others. Most of the night fishing is taking place at Monster Ledge to the west while during the day, the action has been divided between Three Sisters, The F.I. Reef and Monster Ledge. Jigs are accounting for the fish in the daytime while nighttime scores are being made with bait. Hi-hook on Friday night's trip was 65 blues in the 6-12 pound range. During the day on Friday, Steve Melander was hi-hook with 35 fish in the same size range.

Capt. Gordon Roman of the **Captree Queen II** was enthused about the excellent start to the night bluefish trips. He has been fishing at Cholera and Three Sisters. Most of the fish on Friday night's trip ranged from 4 to 8 pounds while the other nights saw

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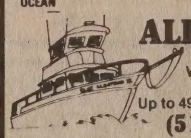

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fish in the 8-16 pound class dominate the catches. Gordon noted that action on Sunday was off somewhat. Of the fluking, he described it as slow to fair with most of the action between Ocean Beach and West Island where nearly all of the fish taken are keepers.

From the **Captain Scotty 3**, Capt. George Tweedy also spoke highly of the night bluefish action. He, too, has been fishing several areas between the Cholera Banks and the Jersey Coast. The skipper thought that fluking had improved somewhat in the eastern part of the bay with quite a few fish in the 2½-3 pound range and very few shorts being taken. Pool fish each day is usually in the 4 pound class.

Over at **Augie's Tackle Shop** in **Babylon**, Fred Austin reported that some white marlin showed in 130-140' of water SE. Bluefin and yellowfin tuna were also reported in the same area. Fred knew that Bob Antolini's Weasel had a marlin on Sunday. The B.C.A. charter boat Cindy-Ann had a yellowfin and a bluefin while sharking during the week. Fred also told of a couple of big eyes taken in the Hudson Canyon. Inshore, Fred recommended the area between the Bridge and West Channel as the best bet for fluke. Weaks have been quiet with the exception of 1-3 pounders back in the bay. The inlet is loaded with small bluefish and there are still flounder in the pocket at the Sore Thumb. Crabbing continues good at the Babylon Town Dock.

Another B.C.A. boat, **Chums,** skippered by Capt. Glen Olsen clicked with a 223 pound mako on Saturday. The fish was taken in 150' of water, 155 degrees from the inlet by Bob Page. It was his first shark ever.

Capt. Jack Stoddard of the open boat **Luci III** labelled the fluking as fair. He did note that Thursday's trip saw some nice sized fish taken on incoming water at the State Channel. Fishing on the weekend was generally slow due to lots of boat traffic and weed in the water. On Friday, the charter boat **Luci II** fished a party headed by Ron Wilson. Working around the NA Buoy the group put away a load of blues and a 125 pound blue shark as well.

The charter boat **Fishfinder** skippered by Capt. Len fished Tim, Tom and Margaret Beeker and Henry Makowski on Saturday. After a frustrating morning with the fluke, Len switched over to bluefish down at the inlet where his party loaded up with 2-4 pound blues on diamond jigs. Worth noting is that Margaret was hi-hook for the day.

From **Lindenhurst Bait and Tackle,** Mike Andreani told of Dick Braue and Laurie and Nelky who took 16 keeper fluke in Dickerson Channel with sandeels on Saturday. Fishing near Sexton Island the same day, Larry and Barbara Gerber put away 12 fluke on squid and sandeels. Mike added that lots of blues in the bay and inlet have been keeping boatmen busy.

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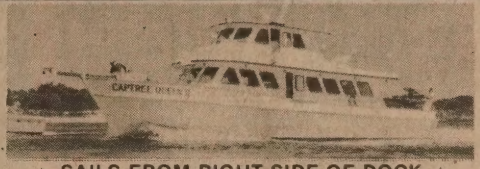

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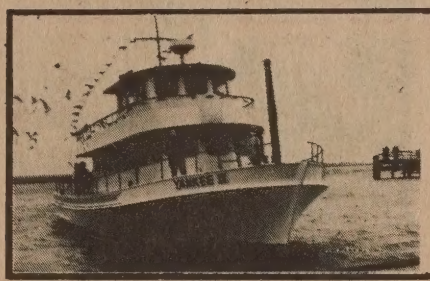

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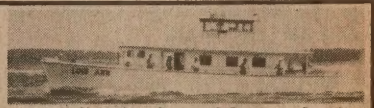

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West End REPORT
with Stu Miller

The biggest and hottest news in this area would have to be the sharking and the blossoming of the glamor species offshore such as swords and the various tunas. Good numbers of decent size fluke were caught this week though the numbers did not set any records. Flounder for those pounding them can still be had in the deeper holes and on muscle bottom if plenty of chum is utilized on a dropping tide. The flounder are mixed sizes and are running up to 2¼ lbs.

WEST END BAYS/ JONE'S INLET

Sailing out of **Seaford**, Capt. Sig Signorelli of the charter boat **3 Sea Sons** advised that the sharking this week has been the best in many years with at least one mako taken on every trip. On Thursday 5 blue shark were taken for a party of 4 Great Lakes charter boat captains headed by Bob Shanye. All shark were T&R with catches made south of the HA. Sig advised that the boat will reserve one day per week for split charters for those not able to arrange a group. See ad and call for details.

John at **Pop's Fishing Station** told of a fairly good week on flounder and fluke with most fish being fluke and some days better than others. John Uss on Wednesday had 25 keeper fluke on sand eels between Four Corners and the 2nd bridge. The larger fluke were taken on east side of the Wantagh bridge. Ernie, Richie Sr. and Jr. Welsch along with Harry Hoffman on Saturday had 18 keeper fluke to 3½ lbs., same place. Also off Keene's Fishing station in 25' of water, decent fluke were taken along with a few bccs. Flounder being caught on the South Bank of Sloop channel between the Meadowbrook and Wantagh bridges.

From **Capt. Eddie's Fishing Station** we hear of good numbers of fluke for the week. John and Mary Belcastro hoisted 16 on Saturday at the mouth of Massapequa Cove on sand eel-squid combos with best catches of the change of tide. Good catches were also made at Squaw Island and around the 2nd Wantagh. Good flounder catches were made at the Meadowbrook bridge and the pier area. Very good bluefishning around Cholera and fair BCCs in the station's canal and off the dock.

Rich Mollo, Joe Henn, Bob Rynzer and George and Nunzi Longobardi with the 233 lb. mako they caught aboard the Freeport charter boat, "Nan-Sea."

Over at **Wanser's Bait and Tackle** Lon said catches have been fairly steady on fluke and flounder all week long. Fluke best at Massapeque Cove, Sloop Channel and Goose Creek. Best flounder have been in the deeps at the Meadowbrook and 3rd Wantagh bridges. Good bluefishing offshore in 80' of water for those dragging umbrellas.

From **Merrick Tackle** in **Bellmore** we get further poop re Meadowbrook bridge flounder on worms. Fluke are being taken in the deeper channels on spearing and squid. Small blues are invading the inlets at dusk and dawn hitting umbrellas and small tins. Good bluefishing at Cholera for diamond jiggers and those dangling bait and throwing chum.

Moving to **Merrick**, Jimmy at **Nicks Fishing station** passed the word of a 33 lb. striped bass taken by Buddy Holmes of Merrick on a live bunker in Haunts Creek early Sunday morning. Buddy and Dennis Newman chummed 8 schoolies Saturday morning at the 3rd Wantagh bridge. The whole week saw good fluking in the back on incoming water, particularly at Merrick Pt., Carmen's cut and at the golf course. Lots of small blues hitting the inlet area on small tins and small red umbrellas at the R2. Nine to 14 lb. bluefish being chummed at Cholera.

As for the fleet out of **Freeport** we hear from the **Freeport Boatmens Association** of fair fluking on the weekend by all of the Association boats in the inlets and off the beaches. Lots of bluefish being taken offshore by trollers and chummers. Day trips are running for blues as far as the Mud Hole but catches are made closer to home at night. Fish are running anywhere from 2-12 lbs. and catches are strong, day and night. Lots of life offshore on the shark, sword, yellowfin and skipjack scene. The **Super Spray II** has been having very good night bluefish catches on their new special program.

A call from the **Miss Freeport II** also extolled the excellent night

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This 4½ lb. pool winner was caught aboard the Freeport open boat, "Capt. Lou IV" by Jim Vanderbeek. He and Jim Bianco totalled nine keepers on the trip.

blues. On Thursday night Joe Lucie, Bronx bagged up with 49 blues, while Tom Ricca smiled with 41 blues. Pool winner was Eric Talanswason, Woodside with a 13 lber. and 70 other blues. Three other gentlemen had roughly 300 lbs. of blues among them. Friday night was just as good. Saturday night was just good. Fish are running 3-8 lbs. with action just one hour from the inlet. The day trips saw excellent fluking Thursday through Friday with Saturday being fair. Action is in local creeks and Jones Inlet and pool fish are in the 3-3½ lb. class.

Captain Mike of the **Apus II** told of excellent sharking to the tune of at least one mako per trip with the largest of the week a 300 lber. Mike raised fish in every area worked from 150' on out. He says it's a banner year for blues and his charters are averaging 60-80 a trip up to 9 lbs.

On the **Capt. Andy Fleet** while fluking was picky to fair this week his flounder trips continue in full swing with catches of 20-30 good flounder a man. Really sharp pounders are getting 75-100 flatties a trip. Fish are mixed in size but mostly nice fat keepers.

Aboard the **Blue Fin Fleet**, bluefishing has been the name of the game all week in 30 to 90 ft. of water fish up to 9 lbs., though mostly 2-6 lbers. are caught. It's all diamond jigs daytime. Thursday's pool winner was Mon Sonng Kim. High hook was Imduk Chung with 13 choppers. Thurday's score was 97 blues taken between Debs and the NB. High hooks have been in the teens, fish 3-5 lbs. Saturday's bluefish catches were excellent to the SE with John Murray high hook. Lots of sand eels and squid in the water.

Fares have been having good bluefish catches day and night aboard the **StarstreaM II** with fish running 1-2 lb., with fish concentrated anywhere from 1-2 hours from the dock. Consitency has been the name of the game.It's jigs day and bait and chum

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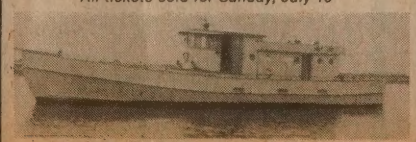

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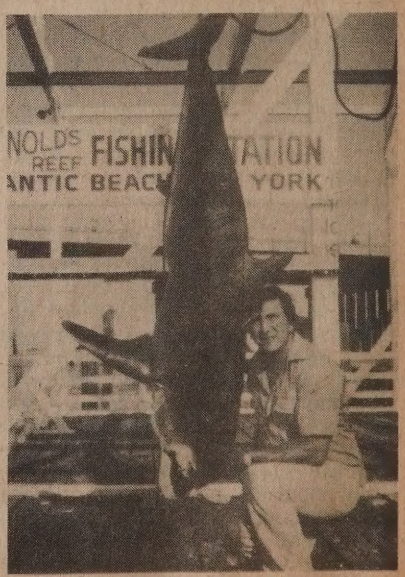
nights with everybody loading up.

Tremendous blues all week reported Capt. Al Lindroth of the **Capt. Al** on day and night trips. Fish are anywhere from 2-10 lbs. and they are all over the place. Excellent, consistent catches and more coming, said Al.

From **Lou's Fishing Station** at the foot of **Woodcleft Canal** we learn the results of the Charvin Shark Tournament held this weekend. 112 boats entered and a lot of makos were caught. First prize of $8400 went to a 322 lb. blueshark caught on the boat First Light by Frank Kretina; 2rd prize $3360 went to Hudson Anglers member Herb Bedell fishing aboard the boat Donna, taking a 312 lb. white shark; 3 rd prize, $1680, 285 lb. mako caught aboard the My Princess by Jack Mandell. Lots of other makos and duskies were caught. On Monday long after the tournament was over, Phil Gauchi brought in a 478 lb. thresher shark.

for the skiff crowd, we hear from **Anthony's Fishing Station** of Bud Kooms and crew that returend with 22 keeper fluke Saturday and 9 Sunday fishing Fundy Bay and the area of High Flats drain. Another rental skiff had 18 keeper fluke Monday at the inlet. Customers are picking away, averaging 4-8 keepers a boat. Some are electing for flounder and bringing them back from the deep holes on worms and chum. Small blues and sea bass are a by-catch as well.

Aboard the charter boat **Lady J III** on Monday Ron Malau and party had 1 blue shark and a good catch of blues SW of Jones. Tuesday's trip for International TAO systems had good bluefishing in the Three Sisters area on diamonds. Thursday's trip for Rich DiAngelo enjoyed good bluefishing on diamonds along the beaches from Jones to Debs. Friday's trip for Twin



George Wetherall and the 336 lb. mako he caught in 170' of water S.E. of Debs Inlet on 50 lb. class tackle. Photo courtesy of Reynold's Reef Fishing Station.

Day Care Camp had fair fluking locally, while Saturday's charter for Jack Scarduzio had fair bluefish action west of Jones and South of the JI buoy 30 miles distant.

In nearby **Pt. Lookout** a call from the charter boat **Marie III** advised that Monday and Tuesday's fluke charter worked Reynolds, Garretts Lead and the golf course for a fair to good pick using spearing, sand eels and squid. Pools ran 4 lbs. each day, catches averaged 2-6 fish a man. Wednesday's trip fishing in 90' of water SW of Jones, big blues were trolled to 13 lbs. on red and black umbrellas. Fridays trip for Ray Kessel and group fished from Jones to Debs in 40-60' of water jigging and slaughtering blues. Approximately 500 fish were caught for 20 people, fish 1-5 lbs. Sunday's trip for Steve Kearney and group worked south of the HA and took a 350 lb. mako which provided 11 jumps during a 3½ hr. battle which took 5 men to reel in. On Monday there were four shark in the slick, none of which would take a bait. However, a 35 lb. bft was trolled on the way back. This may have been the first bft of the season.It hit red and white feathers on the secnond wake in 130 ft. of water. The skipper said he still has some choice dates available for the summer.

Aboard the half day boat **Miss Point Lookout** the skipper told of poor to fair fluking this week due to tidal conditions and heavy boat traffic. Night bluefishing however has been superduper. Friday night Bob Zatorski bagged up with 30 big blues and the pool. Saturday night's blues were big and up to 18 lbs., most over 10 lbs. Fishing was from the Three Sisters To Cholera. The skipper said "the fish were close, local and hungry." The week's fluking ran thusly. Thursday's AM trip, Jim, Sullivan, 3 lb. pool fish. Thursday's PM trip, Earl Ellis, 2 lb. 8 oz. Friday Am, regular Jerry, 3½ lb. pool fish and Friday PM, Marty Shaw, 4 lb. fluke. Saturday's AM trip, 3½ fluke, Scott Feller and in the PM, regular Morty, 3¾ lb. fluke. On Sunday AM, Vince Abad, 3 lb. pool fluke and 6 others.

From **Ed's Fishing Station**, we hear Reynolds was a madehouse on the weekend with heavy boat traffic and a heave. On Friday, Bruno Grabiec and Ed Miskowsky, NJ had 42 fluke in the flats off Reynolds. Ed Puzio and Frank Hercek, NJ boated 37 fluke in the flats also. Tide was incoming on killies and spearing. 49 flounder was the score for Tom Camoia and Armand Sargente and Joel Karalcfsky, all of Bklyn. These fish were taken in Swift Creek on worms and clam chum. Fishing was very good right through Friday. On Saturday, Bill Ophoff and family worked the flats for 40 keeper fluke, all on the large side. The CG station has produced good flounder too.

The word from **Beckmann's Tackle** in **Lynbrook** is that on Saturday Kevin Mieceli and Bill Scully of Elmont fishing the inlet side at WEst End had

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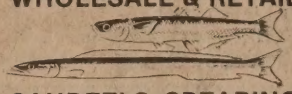
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3, 4 lb. bluefish and a 7.14 weak taken on a small Hopkins. A 10 lb. carp was caught on worm/corn combos by Ida Howe of West Hempstead in Tanglewood Park.

Over in **Long Beach Sports Marina** comes word of plenty of blues off Rockaway, 15' on out on umbrellas. Mike Nichols and Tom O'connel were out Sunday and Monday and had over 50 blues each day from 3-10 lbs. Nice fluke were taken off Riis Park during the week, mostly keepers. Richie McCormick and Tom Kress on Sunday bagged a 130 lb. dusky on their first shark trip aboard their new Aquasport. Blackfishing sporadic at the Atlantic Beach bridge.

From **Atlantic Beach** Al at **Reynolds Reef Fishing Station** tells of good fluke catches being made of Riis Park, Silver Point, Jetty and Debs Inlet. Blacks have thinned out but a few are still being caught at the AB bridge and SP jetty. Blues in the 2-4 lb. range are being trolled at the Tin can on umbrellas with larger fish being taken east of Klondike. Aboard the Four Queens at Block Canyon a 176 lb. big eye tuna, a 32.14 lb. yellowfin tuna and 6 longfin albacore were hook and lined. A large sword estimated at 300 lbs. was spotted. On the compass rose 6, fishing the Texas Tower a 468 dusky and two makos of 104 anc 137 lbs. were taken.

We hear from Capt. Ronnie Lepper of the charter boat **Kim** that the ocean is infested with blues from the inlets to 40 miles off. Six to 10 lbers. are being trolled from 60' on out. Some bass and weaks mixed in with the blues at the channels. Fluking has been very good at the channels and off Riis Park.

NEW YORK BIGHT

From **Skippy's Bait and Tackle** comes word that the fluking was off on the inside this week but was much better off Riis and at the Tin Can. Three bigeye tuna of 196, 190 and 168 lbs. was the reward for George Last of Woodmere, John Wuerful and Rocky Smith of East Rockaway on Marty's Twins. This was at the canyon. They also had severa long fin tuna. This happened Sunday on Green machines. Lots of blueclaws around and Skippy says the water has browned up with all this heat. loads of blues in 30' of water on small umbrellas.

In **Jamaica Bay** Artie at **Cross Bay Bait and Tackle** says that from both bridges a lot of small porgies and some blackfish are being taken. Very good catches of small blues being made on 1-1½ oz. Hopkins and Kastmasters. Fluking from the bridges has been okay but results are better from boats.

Rich at **J-Bay Fishing Station** passed the news that his rental boats are loading up on cocktail blues which are all over the bay and hitting umbrellas, small diamonds, anything shiny, bait, etc. These fish are 1-3 lbs.

Manny and Leo Paradiso with 45 flatties up to 1¾ lbs. caught on mussels in Reynold's Channel on 4-23-83.

Silver Hole held steady for fluke and bccs are being taken from skiffs in the Bay Head area.

From **Sheepshead Bay** Capt. Butch of the**Zephyr** told us that on the weekend the fluking became good as the PM breezes picked up and he could drift. Thursday was a good day, while Monday produced a 6 lb. pool winner. Butch is fishing the west bank area and Romer Shoasl, getting decent catches. High hook for the week was 23 keeper fluke.

A call from the **Flamingo III** advised that the day and night bluefish has been excellent with a few 8-10 lb. weaks mixed in. Blues running up to 5 lbs. Both Friday and Saturday nights bluefish catches at 17 Fathoms saw pool fish up to 18 lbs. taken, said the skipper compared to last year.

Charter Boat **Avatar** has been banging most blues on every trip and there has also been a showing of weaks and bass. Capt. Fred says the weaks should be opening up any day.

"Wee Willie" at **Mike's Bait and Tackle** said bluefishing for private and party boats has been very good and some weaks are starting. The head boats are running to the Slough and blues are 7-8 lbs. average, weaks 8-12. Two and 3 oz. Nordic Eels in reds and greens are looking good to the weaks. Fluke on a 75 percent keeper ratio being taken at the channels and off the Coney Island flats. Good blackfishing at Seabright and decent shots of porgies in the Scallop ridge area.

Over the narrows in **Staten Island** Lenny at **santos Sport Shop** tells of fluke just about all along the shoreline at South Beach and Berger Ave. storm sewers and Great Kills Park. Pete the Greek, a regular customer, seems to be averaging 35 fluke a day from these areas, off the beach at Great Kills Park and the barge off Great Kills harbor, small blues are showing frequently, hitting umbrellas and small tins. Sand porgies off Stapleton Piers and in Great Kills har bors. A few 7-10 lb. weaks at buoy 4 at Great Kills harbor livelining bunker. Also some bccs in GK harbor.

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FREE BAIT, TACKLE & ICE
Sails from Apache Dock on Nautical Mile
Capt. Tony (516) 783-8393

North Shore REPORT
with Marty Garrell

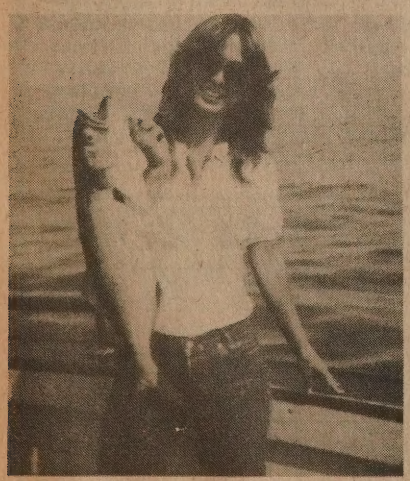
A good showing of bluefish in many parts of the Sound marked this week's action and some very good weakfishing in the eastern reaches of the Sound may bode well for anglers to the west in the weeks ahead. For sinker bouncers, there are some porgies and blackfish remain solid off of Eaton's Neck. Fluking between Port Jeff and Mattituck also provides some good possibilities.

WESTERN SOUND

From **John's Gun and Tackle** in **New Rochelle**, John Timmons said that there was a showing of fluke off of Mattinecock this week. One customer had 6 nice keepers on Sunday. Small blues in the 2-4 pound class have been keeping umbrella rig trollers busy at Execution Light. Other than that, things have been quiet in this area with blacks beginning to peter out and bass fishing is slow.

Some porgies taken over at Sands Point according to **Jack's Bait and Tackle** in **City Island**. Still a few blackfish in the deep water around Stepping Stone and Execution Rocks. Lots of school bass in the area but they have been tough to catch due to the large amount of bait in the area.

The **City Island** open boat **Ebb Tide III**, skippered by Capt. Joe Ferrara has been running down into the Bight for blues and a few weaks. Winnie Ferrara said that while Saturday's



Lori Morrissey of Colorado shows her first ever bluefish. It was also the first of the year caught aboard the Huntington open boat, "Ever-Ready II."

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8 A.M. DAILY 3/4 Day Trip **FLUKE ★ BLUES 7 P.M.**

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$8 FLUKE 8A.M.-Noon & 1P.M.-5P.M. ★ Daily

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(516) 292-8716 Days (212) 428-8614 After 5P.M.

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BLUEFISH SPECIAL! 6:30P.M. TO 1 A.M.
Monday thru Saturday Nights, Starting Friday, July 1st

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FREE BAIT & TACKLE ON ALL FLUKE TRIPS!

★★Closest Boat to the Bluefish & Fluke Grounds! ★★

FLUKE ★ 2 TRIPS DAILY
7:30AM - NOON & 1P.M.-5:30PM
A quality boat with a courteous & efficient crew, dedicated to giving you the best possible fishing — whether you are a beginner or an expert.

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CAPT. RON MURRAY (516) 661-8612

GOOD FLUKE CATCHES EVERYDAY!

Ronnie Ferraro Jr. and his brother Chris with three of six stripers to 34 lbs. they took worm trolling in Cold Spring Harbor with their dad, Ronnie of Ronnie's Tackle Shop in Huntington.

Jigging Blues! Fri. & Sat. 6P.M. to 11P.M. $15.

FLUKE
TWO 1/2 DAY TRIPS EVERY DAY
7:30 A.M. - 12 Noon
1 P.M. - 5:30 P.M.
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Captain Bill
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Free Bait
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BLUES
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SUZANNE
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SENIOR CITIZEN'S RATES WEEKDAYS
FLUKE ★ 7A.M. DAILY (Except Mon.)
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Ft. of Long Beach Bridge, Island Park, L.I.

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'3 SEA-SONS'
SPLIT CHARTERS AVAILABLE
4 Passenger Limit • Beginners Welcomed
All Tackle Supplied • Daiwa Field Testers
Capt. Sig & Frank Signorelli (516) 798-9209 After 6 P.M.

fishing was slow, Sunday's action in Chapel Hill Channel resulted in some anglers taking as many as 60 blues in the 2-5 pound range. A few weaks from 10-12 pounds are mixed with the blues. Both are being taken on Ava 27 and 47 jigs. On Monday, things got off to a good start but tapered off by late morning.

Capt. Dom Cerbone of the open boat **Apache** has been working the Oyster Bay area where fares have been taking a mixed bag of porgies, flounder and blackfish. Bloodworms have been accounting for most of the fish.

John Cacciolla of **Glen Cove Sport Shop** said that there are plenty of flounder around the Prybil Beach area but many are on the small side. A few blackfish still around and sand porgies are being taken out in front of the Piping Rock Beach Club. Bluefish have been on top mornings and evenings along the Glen Cove shore and boatmen casting plugs and small tins have been taking their share of fish. Mackerel haven't entirely disappeared. Ron Oldenberger had 35 one day during the week.

NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND

In the **Huntington** area, blues in the 2-6 pound range showed in force between Callahans and Cranes Neck and in the vicinity of the Lilco platform. This via George Valentine of **Four Winds Bait and Tackle** in Huntington. Most of the fish are being taken trolling with some anglers scoring with jigs. Best bet is mornings and again in the evening. Very little weakfish news but some decent bassfishing spread around the

High Tide Tables

How to use tide tables: To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion table. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that area station above. Example: Shinnecock Inlet . . . −0 50 is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." −0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	BREAKWATER HARBOR AM	BREAKWATER HARBOR PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGEPORT AM	BRIDGEPORT PM	NEWPORT AM	NEWPORT PM	DATE
THURS.	5:45	6:10	6:20	6:55	6:10	6:40	7:15	7:35	8:55	9:10	9:00	9:20	5:40	6:05	7/7
FRI.	6:40	7:00	7:15	7:45	7:10	7:30	8:10	8:25	9:50	10:05	9:55	10:15	6:35	6:55	7/8
SAT.	7:35	7:50	8:10	8:35	8:05	8:25	9:00	9:15	10:50	11:00	10:50	11:10	7:25	7:50	7/9
SUN.	8:25	8:40	9:00	9:25	8:55	9:15	9:50	10:05	11:45	11:55	11:45	—	8:15	8:40	7/10
MON.	9:15	9:35	9:55	10:20	9:55	10:10	10:45	10:55	—	12:40	12:00	12:40	9:10	9:30	7/11
TUES.	10:10	10:25	10:50	11:10	10:50	11:05	11:35	11:50	12:55	1:40	12:55	1:30	10:00	10:25	7/12
WED.	11:10	11:20	11:45	—	11:50	—	—	12:30	1:50	2:40	1:50	2:25	10:55	11:15	7/13
THURS.	—	12:05	12:05	12:45	12:05	12:50	12:50	1:30	2:50	3:40	2:45	3:20	11:50	—	7/14

On Sandy Hook

STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	−0 01
Red Bank, Navesink River	+1 48
Long Branch	−0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	−0 18
Shark River Basin	+0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	−0 12
Seaside Park	−0 33
Mantoloking bridge	+5 34
TOMS RIVER	+4 37
Waretown	+2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	−0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+2 33
Beach Haven	+1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	−0 01
Seven Islands	+0 12
Graveling Point	+1 05
Mullica River	+1 55
Grassy Bay	+1 08
ABSECON INLET	+0 14
Atlantic City Pier	−0 26
Great Egg Harbor Inlet	+0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+0 44
CORSON INLET	+0 09
TOWNSENDS INLET	+0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+0 45
Cape May Harbor	−0 02
Rehobeth Beach	−0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+0 41
SHINNECOCK INLET	−0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	−0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Hart's Cove	+1 30
Pontunk Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	−0 38
Democrat Point	−0 38
Coast Guard Station	−0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville (Brown Creek)	+3 39
Heckscher State Park	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	−0 19
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	−0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	0 00
Beach Channel Bridge	+0 38
J.F.K. Airport	+0 26

On Bridgeport

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	+0 08
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Hbr. entrance	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	+0 05
Herod Point	−0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 05
Horton Point	−0 20
Truman Beach	−0 42
Falkner Island	−0 13
Sachem Head	−0 10
Branford Harbor	−0 07
New Haven Harbor entrance	−0 08
Milford Harbor	−0 07
Stratford, Housatonic River	+0 27
Shelton, Housatonic River	+1 36
Black Rock Harbor entrance	−0 03
Saugatuck River entrance	−0 01
South Norwalk	+0 10
Greens Ledge	−0 01
Stamford	+0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+0 06
Greenwich	+0 02

On New London

Orient	+0 36
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Three Mi. Hbr., Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land, Napeague Bay	−0 14
Montauk Inlet	−0 25
Montauk Point, north side	−1 13
Niantic	+1 20
Stonington, Fishers Is. Sound	−0 33
Noank, Mystic River ent.	−0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove entrance	−0 01
Norwich	+0 12
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook Jetty	+1 10
Lyme, highway bridge	+1 24
Essex	+1 38
East Haddam	+2 41
Higganum Creek	+2 54

On Willets Point

Little Neck Bay	−0 10
Execution Light	0 06
Manhasset Bay	−0 01
Hempstead Harbor	−0 11
City Island	−0 03
Rye Beach	−0 28
Port Chester	−0 09
Mamaroneck	−0 08
New Rochelle	−0 24
Davids Island	−0 02

On Breakwater Harbor

CAPE MAY POINT	−0 10
Miami Beach	+0 17
East Pt., Maurice River Cove	+0 53
Egg Island Point	+0 33
Cape Henlopen	−0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+0 09
Mispillion River entrance	+0 33

On New York

Jersey City	+0 07
George Washington Bridge	+0 46
Spuyten Duyvil, W/RR bridge	+0 58
Ossining	+1 53
Peekskill	+2 24
West Point	+3 16
Newburgh	+3 42

On Newport

Sakonnet	−1 10
Tiverton (between bridges)	+0 21
Beavertail Point	−0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Point	+1 10
Bristol	+1 10
Warren	+0 21
Nayatt Point	+0 12
Pawtucket, Seekonk River	+0 21
East Greenwich	+0 16
Wickford	+0 12
Narragansett Pier	−0 08
Point Judith Hbr. of Refuge	−0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+0 05
Block Island (Old Harbor)	−0 14
Watch Hill Point	+0 44

Sunrise/Sunset

DAY / DATE:	RISE:	SET:
THU. 7/7	5:31	8:39
FRI. 7/8	5:32	8:38
SAT. 7/9	5:32	8:38
SUN. 7/10	5:33	8:37
MON. 7/11	5:34	8:37
TUE. 7/12	5:35	8:36
WED. 7/13	5:35	8:35

Moonrise/Moonset

DAY / DATE:	RISE:	SET:
THU. 7/7	2:48AM	5:40PM
FRI. 7/8	3:30AM	6:52PM
SAT. 7/9	4:22AM	8:01PM
SUN. 7/10	5:24AM	9:02PM
MON. 7/11	6:35AM	9:53PM
TUE. 7/12	7:52AM	10:36PM
WED. 7/13	9:09AM	11:11PM

Moon Phases

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	Last Qtr.
7/10	7/17	7/24	7/3

The Original Knight SOLUNAR TABLES

The schedule of solunar periods below will help plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during the time when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for 1½ to 2 hours thereafter, and are in the bold typeface. The minor periods are shorter in duration and the lighter typeface.

	AM		PM	
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
Thurs.	2:35	**8:45**	2:55	**9:15**
Fri.	3:30	**9:40**	3:50	**10:10**
Sat.	4:25	**10:35**	4:45	**11:05**
Sun.	5:20	**11:35**	5:45	—
Mon.	6:25	**12:10**	6:55	**12:45**
Tues.	7:25	**1:15**	8:05	**1:50**
Wed.	8:35	**2:25**	9:05	**2:50**
Thurs.	9:35	**3:25**	10:05	**3:50**

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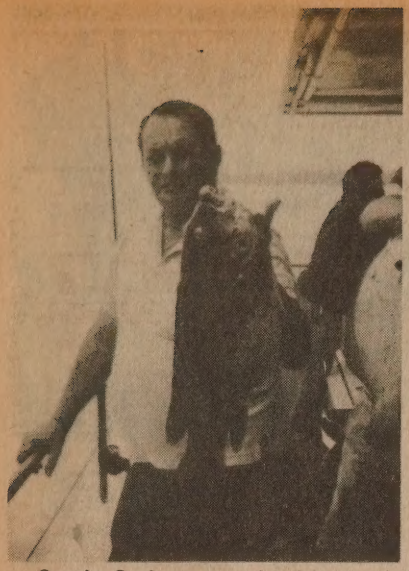

Sandy Cerbone caught this big tautog aboard the City Island open and charter boat 'Apache.'

entire area for worm trollers. Some of the bass, most of which are schoolies are being taken on Rebels. Good numbers of blackfish still camped at Eaton's Neck through Sunday with good a fair amount of 6-8 pounders among them. Some nice porgies in the ½-2 pound range being taken in the Sound and lots of mackerel up to 3 pounds showed on Saturday between the Obstruction buoy and 11B.

According to **Ronnie Ferraro** of **Ronnie's Tackle Shop** in **Huntington**, a few porgies along with a sprinkling of sea bass and blackfish make up the catches of most sinker bouncers in this area. Blues have moved in between the Lilco platform and Crane's Neck but weakfishing remains spotty. Worm trollers are accounting for some bass, mostly schoolies but a few in the teens and 10 20 pound class and there are still mackerel around as evidenced by a showing of fish at Eaton's Neck Sunday morning.

Tom Bowman of **Bowman's Sporting Goods** in **Northport** said that the heat slowed things down quite a bit over the weekend. Good bluefishing in the Fort Salonga area this past week with most of the fish in the 3-5 pound class. Best of the action has been about 5 miles out in the Sound. As for bottom fishing, its basically porgies right now in 30-40' of water off of Makamah and Eaton's Neck. Fluke slow to get started in this area but the time is ripe.

We have plenty of 3-4 pound blues 1 mile off the beach with an occasional weak mixed in according to Dick of **Dick's Sporting Goods** in **Mount Sinai**. Fluke are attracting a lot of attention at White's Beach, Mount Sinai and Port Jeff Inlets. Porgies are abundant in the area but most are on the small side.

Kenny Freeman over at **Angler's Den** in **Selden** reminded that their annual Weakfish Tournament is slat-

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EDITORIAL: Striped Bass Bill Passes State Legislature

(Continued from page 4.)

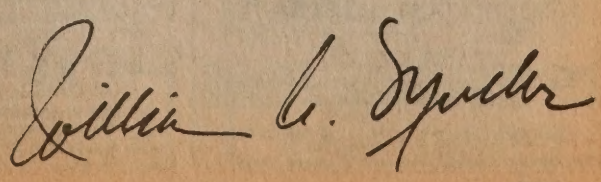
Nonsense! There are only a couple of dozen East End commercial fishermen who seek striped bass (main opposition came from East End commercials) and these fishermen fish for weakfish, blues, various types of baitfish, scallops, and they will still fish for bass on a somewhat restricted basis. With these facts, does anyone believe this legislation will put these people out of business?

The implementation will result in some very modest sacrifices by both recreational and commercial fishermen. The operative words are "very modest." In addition, these sacrifices are only for the short term. What do we gain by modest short term sacrifices? We gain long term abundance, long term stability in the fishery, long term economic benefits to both the recreational and commercial industries, we gain better fishing for the years ahead. When we compare these long range benefits to the scenario of the first paragraph, our choice is clear.

An awful lot of people have worked very, very hard to get this legislation through the state legislature. In the process these folks have asked very little of us. It would be a great tragedy should the Governor not sign the bill into law because we didn't take a minute or two to tell him we want him to. We should tell him that by signing this bill New York will join, as an active member, other coastal states in the responsibility of managing striped bass. We must not drop the ball on this. The commercial fishermen have been exerting a lot of pressure on the Governor not to sign it. We must counter that pressure with equal pressure, only then will the Governor feel comfortable in following the recommendation of the NYS DEC and sign the bill. This is important. Won't you write to day, or call, or send a mailgram.

Write to: **Governor Mario Cuomo, Executive Mansion, Albany, New York 12224** or call the Governor's office at **(518) 474-8390.**

Send mailgrams via: **800-257-2241** (for 516 area codes). Those out of the 516 area, call Western Union.



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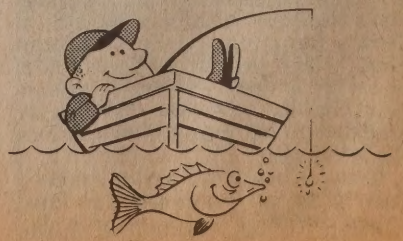
Tom and Carl show a pair of typical North Fork fluke taken recently aboard the Orient Point open boat, "Prime Time II."

ed for this weekend, July 9 & 10. You may register up until 6PM on Friday which makes you eligible for some of the great prizes being awarded to the winners of this year's affair. Speaking of weakfish, Frank Begnasto had a trio of 8 pounders on sandworms at daybreak on Saturday. Russ Gianatti took a 14 pounder Saturday night on a worm. Blues moved in solid this week and there are still mackerel around and porgies provided some decent action off of Buoy 11 and Old Field Point. Fluke fishing has been OK with most being taken in fairly close along the beaches.

NORTH FORK

Art White of **A.P. White Bait Shop** in **Greenport** looked over a fine catch of 34 big weaks and a load of blues which were taken trolling aboard the Sundowner. The scene of the action was Horton's Point. Also at Horton's is a good body of fluke. Larry Ciccotto of the open boat **Prime Time** has been doing very well with the fluke between Horton's and Truman's Beach. Also a good showing of fluke on the East side of Gardiner's and off of East Marion. Art added that porgy fishing has its ups and downs but is still not solid. The charter boat **Nancy Ann** slaughtered the porgies on Saturday while the **Blue Albatross** had and excellent catch of blackfish. Tailor blues are in solid at Hallock Bay and even the kids are catching them on spearing bait. A few big bass in the gut and sluiceway on eels and bucktails.



Surf REPORT
with Fred Golofaro

A combination of the holiday weekend and a scorching heat wave sapped the enthusiasm of many surfmen this past week. Most, however, found the time and energy to give the suds at least one crack over the long weekend.

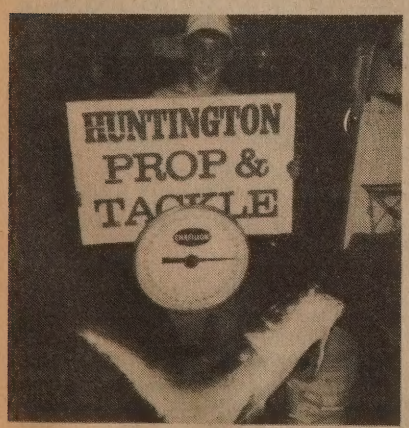
The best news this week concerned Montauk where a good body of weakfish settled into the area and provided some fine fishing for casters spending their holiday at the point.

Small blues continue to provide action at the inlets and here and there a few weakfish are mixed in. School bass are scattered along both the north and south shore and a few big bass found their way into this week's report as well.

Bernie Haag of **Long Beach Sports Marina** relayed word of good numbers of school bass from the Atlantic Beach jetties at dawn and dusk on Rebels and teasers this past week. Most of the fish are being taken on the teaser.

Blair Moger of W. Sayville put a 34 lb. striper on the scale at **J&R Sport Center** in **Oakdale** one morning last week. Blair took the fish in the Fire Island area. Plenty of small blues at Democrat Pt. and across the inlet at the Sore Thumb this past week with an occasional school bass and weakfish mixed in at Democrat. Some action after dark on white painted tins here as well.

According to Paul Graniello of **J&J Tackle** in **Patchogue**, Jeff Mayer put bass of 29.1 and 14.14 on the shop scales Friday AM. These were the Patchogue Fishing Club members' first bass ever tom the surf. Both



A 50.4 lb. cow bass taken by James Bryant Sr. on a live eel, shortly after dawn, near Eaton's Neck. The huge striper was weighed at Huntington Prop and Tackle.

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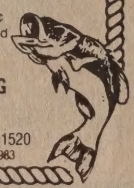

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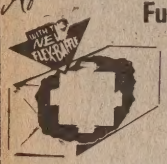

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were taken on jointed Rebels and teasers near Moriches Inlet. Small blues move in and out on both sides of the inlet mornings and evenings and an occasional school bass is mixed with them.

Out in **Montauk**, Johnny Kronuch of **Johnny's Tackle Shop** said the weaks showed up front on Wednesday where wet-suiters had the best of the action. By the end of the week, the fish were settled in along Shagwong. A couple of school bass were mixed with the weaks, which ran from 6-10 lbs. RedFins did most of the damage. John added that he knew of some 20-25 fish catches made by better surfmen. George Delecki provided the only big bass news in this area with a cow of 45 lbs. and another fish of 14 lbs. John weighed the fish Thursday AM and thought both came from the south side.

Up on the north shore, **Glen Cove Sport Shop** reported lots of 3-6 lb. blues around, but added they were tough to catch. Occasional school bass or weaks are mixed with the choppers. Use Rebels and droppers.

From **Four Winds Tackle** in **Huntington**, George Valentine spoke of a few bass along area beaches as did Ronnie Ferraro of **Ronnie's Tackle Shop** who told of a 20 lb. striper taken from the beach at Caumsett Sunday PM. Lots of small bait and cinder worms have made the fish tough to catch. Even the blues have become difficult at times. Weaks in the area have been spotty though a few have been taken at Sunken Meadow after dark on Hellcats, Rebels and droppers.$

A few school bass and occasional shots of blues along area beaches said Tom Bowman of **Bowman's Sporting Goods** in **Northport**. One caster weighed an 11 lb. weak that he took near Sand City Saturday night.

In the **Mt. Sinai-Miller Place** area, Dick Brown of **Dick's Sporting Goods** did weigh a 17 lb. bass for one sinker bouncer who caught the fish on a worm while looking for porgies. Only other news concerned occasional flurries of blues from local beaches morning and evenings on Tri-Fin spoon jigs.

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Boat for Sale: AQUASPORT Walkaround 20', Johnson 235. All 81, SS prop, swim platform, instruments, extras. Wkdays 9-5: 212-843-7777. Eves: 516-825-1204.

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1981 SPORTCRAFT 27' Fiberglass, 255 hp I/B, FWC. Sleeps 2; app'd head, VHF, CB Si-Tex chart recorder. Elec. anchor; compass. Extras. Excl. cond. $18,700. After 7PM: 516-781-0199. 8AM-5PM: 201-862-5944.

1966 31' BERTRAM open Bahia Mar. Boat is completely redone minus engine. Extra fuel, teak deck, covering boards. Offers wanted. 516-728-4220.

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1972 BAYLINER 23 HT Cruiser, 188 Mercruiser, Mercathode system, 110 dockside, CB, DF, head, stove, sink, icebox, dinette. Compl. galley; full canvas. Extras; mint. $6500. 698-5876.

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Grady White 22' Seafarer recessed walkaround cuddy 170 hp OMC, V-6, I/O T/T power strng, batt. $19,876.
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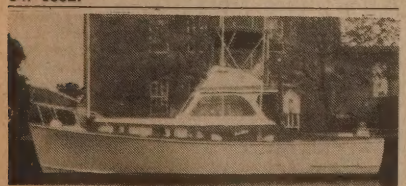
1980 235 hp Evinrude. New power head w/one-year warranty. Excl. cond. Asking $2900. 212-347-3852.



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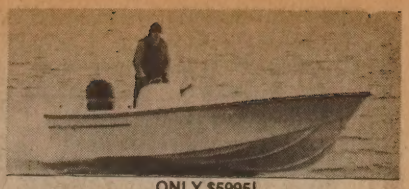

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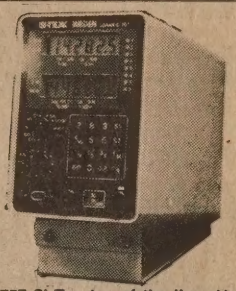

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1¼"x76" bronze shaft - $100; 1-1/8"x57" bronze shaft - $75; 17"x14"x1¼" rh prop - $40; 13"x13"x1-1/8" rh prop - $30. Eves. 212-229-6782.

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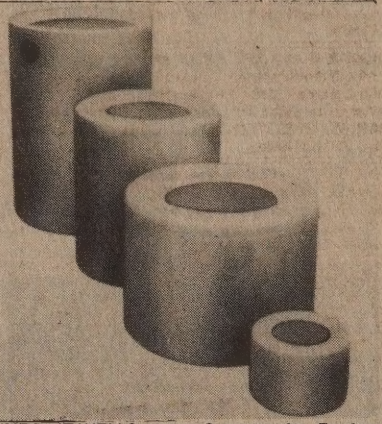

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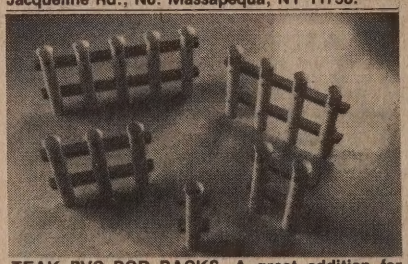

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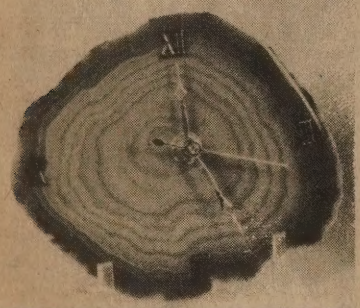

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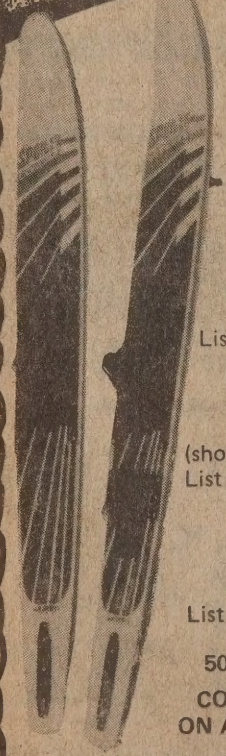

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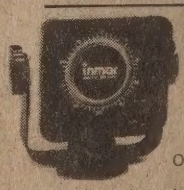

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